OBAMA'S SMALL SCREEN HEALTH PUSH, PG 8

Friday's Jackpot!
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Celebrity Buzz

Jamie Lee was a painkiller addict
pg 36

Taco Bell Chihuahua euthanized

OBIT Handlers say Gidget the Chihuahua, whose Taco Bell commercials made her a star, has died.

She was 15.

The owner of Studio Animal Services says Gidget suffered a massive stroke late Tuesday at her trainer's home in Santa Clarita and had to be euthanized. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FocusOn FirstNations

Metro Canada continues its focus on First Nations and Aboriginal news, community issues, arts and culture as part of a special series coinciding with the Assembly of First Nations convention that ended yesterday in Calgary.

- Today
- **First Nations business leaders making a difference, page 10**
- **Native-inspired decor, page 17**
- **First Nations fashion reflects culture, page 26**
- **Native authors pen page turners, page 32**

Relating pg 10

Penguins aren't people

T.O.CivicStrike

The latest news about the Toronto city workers' strike.

- Today
- **Special meeting scheduled at city hall, page 4**

First Nations **Vote for national chief tied**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assembly of First Nations national chief candidate Shawn Atleo, centre, a Hereditary Chief from the Ahousaht First Nation, in B.C., leaves the hall after the first ballot at the AFN's annual general assembly in Calgary yesterday. A winner was not declared and a third ballot went early into the morning between Atleo and rival candidate Perry Bellegarde, Chief of the Little Black Bear First Nation of Saskatchewan. More coverage, page 6.

Strike to spike STIs

No access to public health nurses

Toronto will see a spike in sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies with public health nurses on strike, sexual health experts say.

City-run sexual health clinics, which provide free or low-cost birth control, testing for STIs (sexually transmitted infections) and free treatment and emergency contraceptive pills, are closed, and many clinics that partner with Toronto Public Health are running at reduced capacity.

"If these services continue not to be offered, the transmission rates will be higher," said LaRon E. Nelson, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing.

"Sexual health clinics reduce the amount of disease in the community and we are less able to do that now."

Public health staff are also concerned about important services affected by the strike, and plan to hold a news conference tomorrow at Metro Hall.

Nelson and other experts say the city's most vulnerable — teens, the poor and new immigrants — are falling through the cracks despite Toronto Public Health contingency plans. Many people who seek services at sexual health clinics are one-time clients who want anonymity, youth who are reluctant to see a family doctor and those who do not have OHIP cards.

The city's five full-time sexual health clinics see about 1,500 people every month, said Toronto Public Health spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Where to turn

- Toronto Public Health is diverting calls made to closed clinics to its AIDS & Sexual Health InfoLine, where non-union staff provide counselling over the phone, call in prescriptions for birth control to pharmacies and refer people to partner community health centres.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Afghan girl shot by Canadian soldiers

ACCIDENT An Afghan girl has been killed in an accidental shooting by Canadian soldiers in Kandahar province.

Military officials say soldiers had dismounted from a convoy Tuesday in the volatile Panjwaii district when a motorcycle came speeding towards them.

When the driver did not heed signals to stop, a warning shot was fired and the motorcycle changed direction and sped away.

Moments later, officials say the soldiers noticed a crowd gathering and discovered that a girl, whose age was not disclosed, had been shot. Attempts to save the girl were unsuccessful.

In a separate incident about an hour later, three Afghan policemen were injured when Canadian soldiers inspecting a possible improvised explosive device fired on a vehicle that was approaching in the dark with its lights out.

Two members of the Afghan National Police suffered minor injuries, while the third remains in hospital. Joint investigations are underway by the Afghan National Police and the Canadian Forces' National Investigation Service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Three teens rob security guard

A 56-year-old security guard was swarmed and robbed by three masked teenagers Tuesday night at 1333 Neilson Rd. One of the suspects produced a gun and demanded money. The guard complied, and all three fled southbound on Neilson on their bicycles. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Canadian gambling revenues decline

Statistics Canada says gambling revenues in 2008 dropped for the first time in 16 years as Canadians pumped less cash into lottery tickets, horse racing and video lottery terminals. The number of households involved in at least one gambling activity also dropped across the country — from 74 per cent in 2000 to 52 per cent in 2007, says a study released yesterday. Some of the study's figures are for 2007 and some are for 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Fourth Wave

Canice Leung encourages you to 'remember the names' of the missing women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Famous People Are Weird imports some celebrity gossip from across the pond

Video Troubling questions arise in the case of four women found dead in a submerged car after rumours of arrests. Watch at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 8, 14, 24, 36, 40 & 42 Bonus 19
Ontario 49: 7, 13, 16, 25, 27 & 35 Bonus 17
Ontario Pick 3: 6 3 3; **Ontario Pick 4:** 6 8 0 1
Encore: 3224552
Daily Keno: 5, 6, 10, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 42, 46, 49, 52, 54, 55, 56, 62, 65, 70
These results are not official.

ShareYourViews

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One-stop-shopping unveiled

Province merges health card, driver's licence and registration services

Ontario residents will no longer have to travel as far and line up as long to get their hands on a health card or driver's licence as the province significantly increases the locations which provide the services.

Minister of Government Services Harinder Takhar announced plans yesterday to merge health card, licence and vehicle registration facilities at integrated ServiceOntario centres starting this fall.

The announcement means health cards, which were available from only 27 Ontario provincial health plan offices, can now be picked up from 300 locations.

"The priority of the government was to provide integrated one-stop-shopping," said Takhar. "This is a major step forward to providing great value for money and excellent service to Ontarians."

For residents in rural and northern communities the plan means no longer having to drive long distances to pick up a health card. Now nearly 95 per cent of all Ontario residents will be within 10 kilometres of an integrated ServiceOntario centre, said Takhar.

Rural residents, who previously had only two locations to choose from, will be able to pick up health cards from 160 centres.

The integrated centres will become fully operational over the next 18 months to simplify and speed up health card and licence renewals across Ontario.

Currently, only two ServiceOntario centres offer all services in one location. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Minister of Government Services Harinder Takhar makes the announcement about changes to ministry offices that will be multi-service facilities in the near future.

67 Northern communities will see an expansion from six health card centres to 67 integrated offices.

Liberals drop their review of eHealth system

POLITICS Opposition parties were fuming yesterday after learning a promised independent review of scandal-plagued eHealth Ontario had been quietly dropped.

The government had said PriceWaterhouseCoopers would look into procurement practices at the provincial agency, which is working to create electronic health records for Ontario residents

Peter Kormos

However, last Friday Health Minister David Caplan wrote a letter to eHealth's new chair agreeing to a request from the agency to drop the outside review, saying it would duplicate the work of Ontario's auditor general.

Premier Dalton McGuinty is obviously worried about more bad news emerging from eHealth and is stalling the inevitable by cancelling the outside review, charged NDP critic Peter Kormos. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deaf woman to swim Lake Ontario

ATTEMPT A 32-year-old deaf woman from Guelph, Brenda Lussier, yesterday began her attempt to swim across Lake Ontario.

The effort could take between 18 and 24 hours to complete.

Lussier is hoping to raise $40,000, which she will donate to the Ontario Camp for the Deaf in Parry Sound. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family of drowning victims left reeling

ACCIDENT After three consecutive days of devastating news, a Toronto father is struggling to help his two sons cope with the loss of their mother and two sisters, who drowned in a hotel pool while vacationing in an eastern Ontario resort town.

Naila Yasmin, 43, a wife and mother of four, died in hospital on Sunday. Her 14-year-old daughter, Kinza Kaianad, died Monday evening and 11-year-old Sunaila Kaianad died Tuesday afternoon. All died at Kingston General Hospital.

Father and sons

- The father and his two sons were eating breakfast at the hotel when the drownings occurred.

Now the father, identified as Muhammad Sana Ullah by Abdul Qayum of the Islamic Foundation of Toronto, is left to plan funeral arrangements.

Police have not yet released the results of the 11-year-old Sunaila's autopsy.

But they have ruled out foul play in the three deaths and suggested the pool's chemicals played no role. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Correction

A July 21 article on summer school programs offered at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts identified Blair Duckworth as guidance teacher at the school. In fact, Duckworth is the summer principal at the academy, in addition to his role as guidance teacher throughout the regular school year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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No evidence of gang connections to death, police say

Police say there's no evidence of gang connections in the beating death of a man in an east-end Toronto park earlier this month. There have been no arrests in the swarming attack on Kristian Thanapalan, 22, and his friends by several men wielding baseball and cricket bats. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Making time for music

Band members take history in summer school

So many courses, so little time — and so many kids dropping music from their timetables.

With art, music and drama getting the squeeze under Ontario's packed new four-year curriculum, Toronto music teacher Paul Adams came up with a brain wave three years ago.

He would tell his Grade 9 music students at Brébeuf College School to take their compulsory Grade 10 history course in the summer before Grade 10, which would free up a period for taking band music during the year. Otherwise, many dropped music.

It worked, and word has spread. This year 350 students are taking Grade 10 history from the Toronto Catholic District School Board — almost twice as many as last year. Other GTA boards say history is also a popular summer school subject.

"I'm a bad guy — I've created my own boom in summer school to help students take a broader range of subjects, including the arts," said Adams, who is now principal of Brébeuf's bustling summer school on Steeles Avenue East.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mary Chiu, left, Timothy Leung and Sophia Yang are taking Grade 10 History classes at Brébeuf College School this summer.

Grade 10 student Mary Chiu is taking Canadian history this summer so she can fit in a visual art course this fall at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School.

"I wanted to take more arts courses and I also want to fast-track and finish early," said the 15-year-old. "Besides, I wasn't going to be doing anything this month anyway."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MuchMusic **Hilson in the house**

SUMMITT PHOTO

Recording artist Keri Hilson stopped by MuchMusic to talk about her career and love for Twitter yesterday on MuchOnDemand. Her single Knock You Down is currently on the charts.

City council to meet next month

POLITICS Toronto city council will meet on Aug. 5 and 6 to deal with urgent business that's been put on hold by the strike.

All regular council and committee meetings have been cancelled since the strike began, although council held a special meeting on June 26 to approve the purchase of 204 new streetcars.

T.O.CivicStrike

Unlike that special meeting, which was held at the Metro Convention Centre, the August meeting will take place at City Hall, Mayor David Miller announced yesterday.

Miller had been under pressure from some councillors to hold a meeting.

A petition being circulated by Coun. Peter Milczyn had collected close to the 23 signatures needed to require a meeting to be held.

Miller said about 50 items must be dealt with. Many are routine, such as contract awards that have been through a tendering process, but need council's approval. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man undergoes surgery after being shot four times
Emergency crews rushed a 19-year-old man to Sunnybrook hospital at about midnight Tuesday, after he was found with gunshot wounds on Vinci Crescent, said Staff Sgt. Chuck Konkel. The victim was shot three times in the back and once in the leg, he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lips cause of woman's strife, papers show

DETAINED Suaad Hagi Mohamud was done in by her lips.

A Kenyan official detained the Toronto woman in Nairobi because her lips didn't match the ones in her passport photograph, according to documents released by her lawyer yesterday.

Documents submitted in a Nairobi court curtly explain why she was detained: "After a comparison was done, it emerged that although the passenger and the passport holder had the same facial features, that passenger's lips were different from that of the passport holder."

Mohamud has been marooned in Nairobi since May 17. The 31-year-old mother was on her way back to Toronto when she says a Kenyan officer stopped her at the Nairobi airport for not looking like her four-year-old passport photo. The Somali-born woman scored a small victory yesterday when the Canadian government agreed to DNA testing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's profiling, tribunal rules

Cop who stopped letter carrier guilty, says adjudicator

Ron Phipps admits he was criss-crossing Vernham Avenue that fateful day in the Bridle Path.

He was also wearing a Canada Post coat and carrying two mailbags. He was filling in for the regular letter carrier. "It's not like this was an after-hours party," Phipps said yesterday with a wry laugh as he sat in his tidy dining room in a Thornhill cul-de-sac.

The Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario has ruled by stopping Phipps, questioning him, trailing him and asking a white letter carrier to verify his identity, Toronto Police Const. Michael Shaw was guilty of racial profiling.

The fact that Phipps "was an African Canadian in an affluent neighbourhood was a factor, a significant factor, and probably the predominant factor, whether consciously or unconsciously, in Const. Shaw's actions," adjudicator Kaye Joachim wrote in his decision last month.

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto letter carrier Ron Phipps, 44, says he was discriminated against by a Toronto police constable.

At the hearing, Shaw contended each of Phipps' actions was suspicious, despite his uniform. Joachim batted each one down.

Shaw had been training Diane Noto, a new police constable, the day Phipps was filling in for the regular carrier on the Bridle Path route. The officers, investigating cut phone lines, were looking for suspects described as male, white and eastern European who were in a car.

"The fact that it was an African Canadian male without a vehicle that attracted Const. Shaw's attention is what is unusual," wrote Joachim.

The constable is on "prolonged leave" from 33 Division, police said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ex-manager admits bilking bank

COURT A former Toronto Dominion Bank manager has pleaded guilty to defrauding the bank out of $819,000 over seven years, largely by duping family and friends in the Greek community.

But Thomas Palantzas, 51, says he did it under pressure from someone with connections to a biker gang, his lawyer, Michael Romoff, told Ontario Superior Court Justice Brian Trafford yesterday.

Sentence

- The Crown and defence have come to a joint position where Palantzas would serve 15 months, three years probation and pay back the money.

Romoff added, however, that the Crown does not accept this explanation and the defence no longer has plans to present evidence to support it.

He returns for sentencing submissions Sept. 4.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CHARGES Three teens now face manslaughter and arson endangering life charges after a massive fire in Vaughan last week, that claimed the life of a fourth suspect. Miguel Arias, 18, Joshua Miller, 19, both of Vaughan, and Adrian Flores-Valverde, 18, of Toronto, were initially charged with arson. York region's homicide unit has taken over the case and upgraded those charges to manslaughter and arson endangering life.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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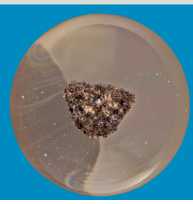
Man seeks compensation for seized pot

A medical marijuana user has asked a B.C. court judge to order compensation after RCMP seized his stash of marijuana plants and two kilograms of pot. The 40-year-old man has a Health Canada licence to grow and possess marijuana because he suffers from severe migraines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Piece of the moon on show

Canada's Goodwill Moon Rock is being dusted off after 30 years in storage and will be put on display this week at Ottawa's Canada Science and Technology Museum. Canada's tiny piece of the moon has been locked away in the Canadian Museum of Nature's warehouse in Ottawa for the past three decades.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premiers close to deal on procurement: Day

BUY AMERICA Trade Minister Stockwell Day says he hopes all provinces will soon sign on to a commitment not to discriminate against U.S. companies in government procurement.

The federal trade minister said yesterday he is still hoping to get unanimous agreement from all 10 provinces within a couple of weeks, although he said it may be possible only a majority will sign on.

"Time is of the essence because every day we wait, more and more of that U.S. stimulus money is going out the door and we want Canadians companies to have a fair shot at it," he said. Day said he is prepared to move ahead and submit what is essentially a unilateral peace offering on government procurement even if not all provinces are on board.

The Canadian government has been lobbying for months to get the U.S. Congress to halt Buy America provisions from being tacked on to about $290 billion US earmarked for infrastructure projects as part of the U.S. stimulus package.

Stockwell Day

So far, Canadian companies complain they have been shut out of bidding for water treatment and school renovation projects financed by federal infrastructure spending, but the lion's share of the money has yet to be allotted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Race down to two

2nd ballot for national leader ends in dead heat

A dramatic showdown emerged after the second ballot yesterday resulted in a virtual dead heat as chiefs from the Assembly of First Nations chose their next national leader.

Shawn Atleo, an assembly vice-chief from British Columbia, was barely in first place with 50.36 per cent of the vote. Perry Bellegarde, former leader of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, was second with 49.64 per cent.

However, the winner must get at least 60 per cent of the votes cast and the rules call for the voting to continue until that happens or until one of the candidates concedes.

After the first ballot, Atleo had looked like he was pulling into a commanding lead with 43 per cent compared to Bellegarde's 29.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Perry Bellegarde was trailing the leader by a hair yesterday.

But third-place candidate John Beaucage, grand chief of the Union of Ontario Indians, withdrew when he pulled only 15 per cent of the vote, sending his supporters to Bellegarde's camp.

So did Bill Wilson, a B.C. consultant and veteran of political battles to have native rights in the Constitution. He had only one per cent of the votes while Terry Nelson, chief of the Roseau River First Nation in Manitoba, got 10 per cent.

Both men were knocked out of the race because they did not achieve the 15 per cent minimum required of the 552 votes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FocusOn FirstNations

News in brief

KINGSTON Police are keeping mum amid media reports that three people have been arrested in the bizarre case of four Montreal women found dead in a car in the Rideau Canal near Kingston. Kingston police Const. Michael Menor says a news conference today will "update" the investigation into the deaths of 19-year-old Zainab Shafia, her two sisters and 50-year-old Rona Amir Mohammed.

WILDFIRES Everyone who fled their homes in the path of two raging B.C. wildfires were allowed to return home by suppertime yesterday. One fire in Kelowna began as a puff of smoke Saturday afternoon, but spread rapidly and eventually forced 10,000 people to flee. Three houses were destroyed and a further six structures burned. A separate fire in nearby Rose Valley pushed another 1,200 people out of their homes and those orders were also lifted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Radiologist protests a 'lynching'
Radiologist Darius Tsatsi, whose work has sparked a review of 70,000 exams, has accused regulators of a "modern-day lynching." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Via strike looms

Tourism braces for yet another 'challenge'

Yet another body blow is looming for Canada's tourism operators.

Already struggling under a visa and passport clampdown and the economic slowdown, they now face a strike by Via Rail locomotive engineers.

"We're getting bombarded by a host of challenges," Randy Williams of the Canadian Tourism Association said yesterday.

Williams said a strike by the country's largest passenger rail service would affect accommodations, attractions and other businesses that depend on the peak travel season.

Busy lines

- Every week Via operates 503 intercity, transcontinental and regional trains.
- It links 450 communities across its 12,500-kilometre route network.
- Last year it transported 4.6 million passengers — the most since 1989 — and set a record of $299 million in revenue.

The stoppage would come on the heels of new visa requirements for Mexicans and people from the Czech Republic and passport requirements for American travellers.

"It makes it difficult for the industry to operate at its full potential with these constant challenges," Williams said.

The 340 engineers, represented by the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference union, have set a strike deadline of noon tomorrow.

Via Rail has begun cancelling some departures of long-distance trains to ensure passengers are not stranded.

A federal mediator has been appointed to assist in the contract talks in Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lotto winner's streak ends in jail

LADY LUCK Feeling lucky, punk?

An Ontario lottery player's windfall — then downfall — earlier this week is an ironic reminder that for those with something to hide, going for the big win just might not be worth the gamble.

Barry Shell, of Brampton had a cheque for $4.4 million in hand and mugged for the money shot Monday before being swiftly carted off to jail on outstanding criminal charges.

The skeletons came tumbling out of Shell's closet for the simplest of reasons — he failed to provide the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. with proper ID during the processing of his winning ticket. An arrest warrant had been issued in 2003 after he didn't show up for a court date.

All Ontario winners of prizes $1,000 or more are subject to certain checks, with a more thorough investigation when the claim is for $10,000 or more, by a lottery retailer.

But scrutiny has shot up in recent years since lottery officials aimed to mend broken public trust following a protracted scandal involving lottery insiders, including retailers and their families, cashing tickets not their own.

Officials say the resulting relationship between the corporation and OPP, which began January 2008, has nabbed a few extra bad guys along the way.

For lotto players not on the lam, other unlucky fallout in Ontario and places in Western Canada could land on those shirking child payment support. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lottery winner Barry Shell holds up his $4 million cheque. Shortly after, he was arrested by the Ontario Provincial Police because of an outstanding arrest warrant.

Regulars cry into beer as bar shuts

LAST CALL When the wrecking ball hits the Midtown Tavern, many regular patrons will stay away, knowing they simply couldn't bear the sight.

"I won't be standing out there to see it. No, no," says Fred Martin, 82, a regular for 60 years at one of Halifax's most venerated drinking institutions.

The Midtown opened in 1949 at a time when women were excluded.

It will close its doors Saturday to make way for a proposed new convention centre.

Later, the Midtown's 10 staff will migrate to a new location just down the street, bringing along the Formica tables with flaking rims, a bas-relief wall mural of tall ships — and loyal clients like Martin.

But regulars say nothing can quite replace the original Midtown, a survivor among a dying breed of old-fashioned Canadian taverns and beer parlours.

"From construction workers to Supreme Court justices to millionaire industrialists … You look around and you see a guy worth millions talking to a guy making $25,000 and they all talk and they all get along," says Eric Grant, who operates the bar with his brother Bobby. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing financier suicidal, his lawyer says

MYSTERY Missing Montreal financial adviser Earl Jones has resurfaced.

Lawyer Jeffrey Boro says Jones is alone, depressed and suicidal in Canada and is co-operating with authorities.

However, Quebec's securities regulator alleges between $30 million and $50 million is missing from accounts run by Jones.

Jones has not been charged and there is no warrant out for his arrest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mistrial declared in cancer murder plot

A California judge has declared a mistrial in the case of a woman accused of hiring a hit man to kill her husband because she thought his cancer treatments would eat up their savings. Prosecutors plan to refile the case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Turkey willing to mediate: PM

Turkey's prime minister said yesterday his country is prepared to resume mediating in the Arab-Israeli conflict and pressed Israel to return the Golan Heights to Syria. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, also strongly reprimanded Palestinians for the divisions between the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority and Hamas militants who run the Gaza Strip. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Textbook case

Israelis, Arabs at odds over reference

The Israeli government will remove references to what Palestinians call the "catastrophe" of Israel's creation from textbooks for Arab schoolchildren, the education minister said yesterday.

The reference to "al-naqba," the Arabic word for catastrophe, as Palestinians call their defeat and exile in the war over Israel's 1948 creation, was inserted by an Israeli education minister in 2007.

The phrase remains contentious six decades later, a symptom of the continuing divisions in Israel.

Many Israeli Arabs identify politically with their Palestinian counterparts in the West Bank and Gaza. As a result, some Israeli Jews accuse Israeli Arabs of disloyalty to the country.

Israel's current government, headed by Benjamin Netanyahu and his hardline Likud Party, includes members who favour cracking down on Israeli Arabs by ordering loyalty oaths or even moving them out of Israel.

"No other country in the world, in its official curriculum, would treat the fact of its founding as a catastrophe," Education Minister Gideon Saar of Likud told Israel's parliament yesterday.

Israeli Arab lawmaker Hana Sweid accused the government of "naqba denial."

"It's a major attack on the identity of the Palestinian Arab citizens of the state of Israel, on their memories and their adherence to their identity," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A thousand stories **In the naked city**

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robert Burck, also known as The Naked Cowboy, plays the song he wrote for his New York City mayoral campaign in Times Square yesterday. Burck vowed to run a transparent campaign as he tossed his hat into the ring for the city's mayoral race.

Obama presses health care

U.S. Barack Obama pressed his fight for a health care overhaul yesterday, using a nationally televised news conference to seek support from the American public on an issue that has become pivotal for his young presidency.

With his popularity dipping and Republicans on the attack, Obama called an evening news conference last night to argue that changes were needed to guarantee health care for the tens of millions of Americans without insurance.

"This debate is not a game for these Americans, and they cannot afford to wait for reform any longer," he said. Republicans contend Obama's push and emerging congressional bills are rushed and risky. A nervous public is being hit by TV ads and claims from all sides. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trillion mark

- The total cost of the U.S. response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan would top $1 trillion under a funding bill approved by a key U.S. House panel.

News in brief

COMPROMISE Sudan's fragile peace overcame a major hurdle yesterday when a legal panel drew a compromise map splitting an oil-rich region between the government-held north and the south, controlled by former rebels. The court ruling on the Abyei region gave the northern government control of significant oil fields and handed the southern administration a large area that contains the home villages of many of those who fought during a 20-year civil war.

MEETING Diplomats from NATO and Russia met yesterday to discuss ways of co-operating in the battle against pirates off Somalia and supplying alliance forces fighting in Afghanistan. The one-day meeting in Brussels was the latest sign of improving relations between the West and Russia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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(1) Subject to approved credit.

Ecuadorian president says he believes U.S. was aware of Honduras coup
Ecuador's President Rafael Correa says the Honduras coup probably occurred with the U.S. military's knowledge. Correa tells Marejada radio that he trusts U.S. President Barack Obama and thinks he is a good man, but that he believes "he is not in control of the United States." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asia gets longest eclipse until 2132

Millions of Asians turned their eyes skyward yesterday as dawn suddenly turned to darkness across the continent in the longest total solar eclipse this century will see. Millions of others, fearing a bad omen, shuttered themselves indoors.

Chinese launched fireworks and danced in Shanghai. On a Japanese island, bewildered cattle went to their feeding troughs thinking night had fallen. And in India, a woman was crushed as thousands of viewers crowded the banks of the Ganges for a glimpse.

Starting off in India just after dawn, the eclipse was visible across a wide swath of Asia before moving over southern Japan and then off into the Pacific Ocean. In some parts of Asia, it lasted as long as 6 minutes and 39 seconds.

The eclipse is the longest since July 11, 1991, when a total eclipse lasting 6 minutes, 53 seconds was visible from Hawaii to South America. There will not be a longer eclipse until 2132.

Thousands of Hindus in India took to the Ganges river to cleanse their sins. A 65-year-old woman was killed and six people injured in a stampede at one of the river's banks where about 2,500 people had gathered. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WALLY SANTANA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman and her children watch the solar eclipse with special glasses at the astrological museum in Taipei, Taiwan yesterday. The longest solar eclipse of the 21st century pitched a swath of Asia from India to China into near darkness as millions gathered to watch the phenomenon.

Worker kills self over missing iPhone prototype

CHINA Sun Danyong was responsible for handling the prototypes of the iPhone. When one of the gadgets went missing and his company, a key Apple supplier called Foxconn Technology Group, began investigating him, he jumped off his apartment building and killed himself.

The death — which involves allegations that security guards roughed up the worker — prompted Apple Inc. yesterday to issue a statement, insisting that all its contractors must treat workers with respect and dignity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mumbai gunman says he does not fear punishment

INDIA The young Pakistani gunman who confessed to his role in the Mumbai attacks says he would rather be hanged in this world than face "God's punishment" in the next.

The Indian court trying Ajmal Kasab has yet to accept his confession and guilty plea for taking part in one of the worst terrorist attacks in Indian history — three days of carnage in November that left 166 people dead. Judge M.L. Tahiliyani said he would decide today whether to accept the confession.

"Whatever I have done, I have done in this world. It would be better to be punished in this world. It would be better than God's punishment. That's why I have pleaded guilty," Kasab told the court yesterday.

> **"It would be better to be punished in this world ... than God's punishment."**
> Ajmal Kasab, gunman

Kasab unexpectedly confessed Monday to taking part on the first day of the attacks. His statement bolsters India's charges that terrorist groups in neighbouring Pakistan were behind the well-planned attack, and that it is not doing enough to clamp down on them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ahmadinejad sticks by selection

POLITICS Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stuck by his appointment for a key top deputy on yesterday in an unusual defiance of Iran's supreme leader who reportedly ordered the man's removal. His move deepens the dispute among the country's hard-line leadership.

Ahmedinejad

Ahmadinejad's defiance will likely outrage his fellow conservatives and could cause an outright rift between him and his close ally Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The wrangling within the hardliners' camp comes as Khamenei is trying to keep them all together in the face of a strong opposition challenge after the disputed June 12 presidential election.

A chorus of ultra-conservative clerics and politicians denounced Esfandiar Rahim Mashaii since Ahmadinejad announced him as his choice for first vice-president last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ASBESTOS An Italian judge yesterday ordered a Belgian man and a Swiss man to stand trial for alleged negligence leading to hundreds of deaths linked to asbestos plants. Prosecutors say Stephan Schmidheiny of Switzerland and Jean-Louis de Cartier of Belgium were key shareholders in Eternit, a Swiss construction company. They allege the two were responsible for the death of some 2,000 workers and residents from asbestos-related diseases. THE ASSOCIATED

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Comment

Penguin pair young and the restless

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

I usually eschew celeb news in this column — that's what the Celebrity Buzz pages are for — but the breakup of Pepper and Harry, the San Francisco Zoo's famed gay penguins, seems momentous enough to merit an exception.

As the San Francisco Examiner reported earlier this month, Harry, after six years with Pepper, during which the two males hatched and raised an abandoned chick, has seemingly switched teams, taking up with Linda, a recently-widowed female, with whom he's started a family.

The jokes have been irresistible, predictable and a little heartless. It's hard enough to waddle through life under the constant scrutiny of zoo-goers without having to deal with the media as well.

Our species has reacted with all sorts of specious conclusions about same-sex marriage and other overstretched sociological metaphors. A conservative news site decided the split was evidence that nature preferred straight animals — as if Pepper's new love somehow trumped the old one.

Those who oppose homosexuality react, as you might expect, somewhat unfavourably to gay penguins.

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

Penguins live about half their life on land and half in the water, so maybe they're just adaptable. Linda and her dear departed mate had two nests, so in penguin terms, she was a rich widow.

The anthropomorphizing continues ad nauseam. It's the nature of the human beast. We lock animals up in zoos to learn about them, in part because they seem so much like us — mating, eating and all the rest, but with much lower incidences of smoking, blogging and organized religion.

Penguins aren't people, and we know it. We're not really talking about the penguins. We're talking about ourselves, thinking in fables. Some very good, long-term relationships run their course, and that can bother the people outside them even more than the principals. When your favourite couple splits up, your relationship with them changes too, and like kids whose parents divorce, you've no say in the matter. If there's a third party involved, like Linda, they're an easy target for blame.

Nobody else knows what's really going on between any two people (or penguins). Even the lovers themselves may be desperately trying to understand it. And sometimes a penguin is just a penguin.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

5 prominent Aboriginal business leaders

InBusiness

Charles Davies

If Clint Davis is right, First Nations businesses are about to soar. Davis, president and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, talks of "a huge blossoming of activity."

The aboriginal population is growing faster than other segments of Canadian society; land claims settlements have given aboriginals access to capital for investment and, because of that, more aboriginals have gone entrepreneurial. A federal study in 2002 concluded that aboriginals were starting small companies at a rate nine times faster than in the general population. A new generation of business stars has also grown up. Here are five of the most prominent:

FocusOn FirstNations

Blaine Favel, president and CEO, One Earth Resources Corp: A Harvard MBA and former Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, develops resource projects with aboriginal partners. Favel also chairs One Earth Farms Corp., which is investing $27.5 million in corporate farming on aboriginal lands.

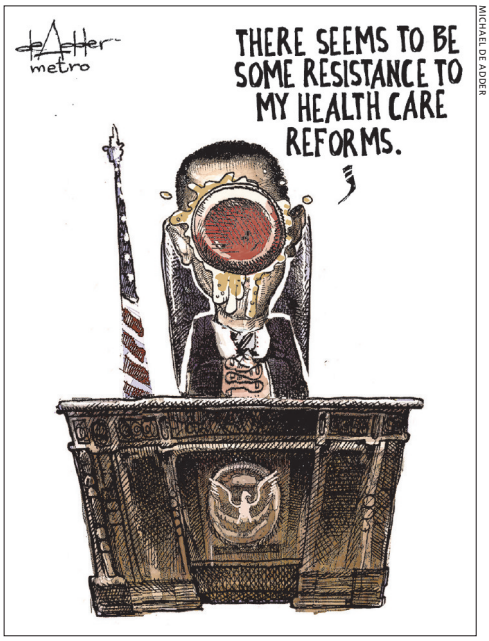
Clarence Louie, CEO, Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corp: A straight talker who believes First Nations people should concentrate on creating jobs, the Osoyoos B.C. Band chief has built eight businesses involved in construction, forestry, vineyards, retail and golf.

Keith Martell, executive chair, First Nations Bank of Canada: Martell has headed the 13-year bank since its inception, tailoring services for the aboriginal market through six branches and three community banking centres. Assets have more than doubled to $253 million.

Mike Metatawabin, president, Five Nations Energy Inc: Metatawabin runs Canada's only First Nations-owned electricity transmission company.

Allan McLeod, president and CEO, Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba: TCIG's investments on behalf of 55 First Nations include Arctic Beverages Ltd., a Pepsi/Frito Lay franchise and a health claims processing system, First Canadian Health Management Corp. McLeod oversees annual sales of more than $61 million.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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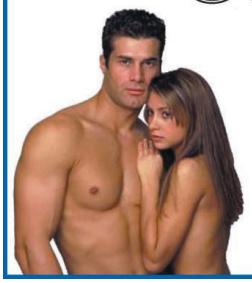

B These days it seems that everyone wants to offer laser hair removal. Sadly most overcharge and deliver poor results or undercharge for no results. We know because the dissatisfied customers come to OMI.

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Shoppers Drug Mart boosts profit
Shoppers Drug Mart Corp. boosted its second-quarter profits by 7.5 per cent, helped by an increase in prescription sales and the expansion of its store space. Net income rose to $136 million, from $127 million in the same period a year ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Videotron steps out of Quebec

Strikes wireless deal with Rogers

Cable TV operator Videotron, which is setting up a wireless phone network, has negotiated a deal with Rogers Communications so Videotron can roam exclusively on the Rogers network in Canada.

The deal, announced yesterday, will help provide future Videotron wireless customers outside the Quebec company's coverage area access to a national wireless network so they can make cellphone calls from anywhere in Canada.

Separately, Videotron agreed with Rogers on tower sharing arrangements for certain cellular sites in Quebec and the Ottawa region.

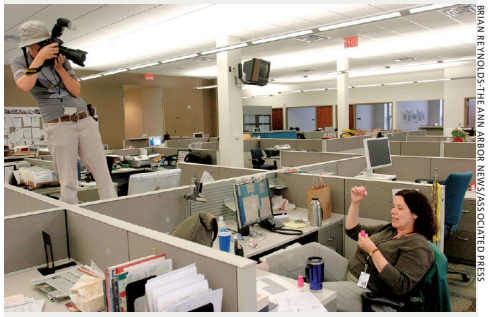
"This is great news for our customers and for us," said Robert Depatie, president and CEO of Videotron, a unit of Quebecor Media.

"At the same time, we appreciate the openness and collaborative spirit of Rogers with whom we hope to continue to develop a lasting business relationship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$1B Videotron and Quebecor Media said last October they plan to invest $800 million to $1 billion over the next four years to develop their own wireless network.

Paper Closing after 174 years



BRIAN REYNOLDS-THE ANN ARBOR NEWS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ann Arbor News photographer Leisa Thompson shoots photos of copy editor Domenica Trevor blowing bubbles in the newsroom in Ann Arbor, Mich., yesterday. The paper will cease publication today after a run of 174 years.

RIM hangs tough on Nortel bid, insists fight isn't over

PATENTS Research In Motion refuses to budge in its pursuit of Nortel Networks' wireless business because within it are key patents that could help secure RIM's future as a mobile phone technology leader, industry observers say.

Veritas Investment Research analyst Neeraj Monga says the BlackBerry maker is hoping Nortel technology can patch up some of its weaker points and prepare it for fourth-generation wireless networks.

"The fact is, RIM appears to have among the weaker intellectual property positions in the industry," said Monga. "Essential patents tend to have more value because everybody and their business needs them to make their products work."

Monga suggested that's why RIM dove head-first into what has turned out to be a messy public war of words with Nortel.

Within Nortel's wireless division is the Long Term Evolution Access business, using a wireless standard that's gaining acceptance in the market and would include patents useful for future development.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auto industry turning around?

REVERSE The Canadian auto industry is showing signs of improvement after sales of vehicles and parts rose in May, slowly but surely reversing months of decline, say industry players.

Auto sales jumped 8.3 per cent in May to $12.3 billion, compared to April, Statistics Canada said yesterday.

New car sales increased 4.6 per cent to $6.6 billion, while used and recreational motor vehicles sales, as well as auto parts dealers, saw their sales increase by 13.3 per cent to $2 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Business in brief

ENERGY Suncor Energy Inc., days away from becoming Canada's biggest energy company, said low oil prices were the main factor behind its $51 million second-quarter loss. Suncor said the Competition Bureau has approved its planned merger with Petro-Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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One-third of Australia's curling rocks stolen

Fifty-eight curling rocks, more than one-third of the rocks in Australia, were stolen from a refrigerated truck sometime between June 16 and July 7 in a Melbourne parking lot, police say. Despite there being only about 150 rocks in the country, Australia is ranked 11th in the world in the sport. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Williams back in school

Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams, left, twice suspended by the NFL for positive drug tests, is using this off-season to attend a massage therapy school in a Florida strip mall, the New York Times reports. Williams has been interested in alternative medicine since Toronto Argonaut trainers used an alternative treatment on his broken arm in 2006. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Mike Weir leads national hopes at Canadian Open

GOLF Mike Weir is so familiar with the storyline that he answered the question before it was even asked.

It's simply impossible for the lefty from Bright's Grove, Ont., to arrive at the RBC Canadian Open and avoid talking about what it would be like to become the first Canadian-born player to win this event in 95 years.

Karl Keffer is the only man to accomplish that feat with victories in 1909 and 1914. English immigrants Pat Fletcher (1954) and Charles Murray (1906, 1911) each lived in Canada when they won the event.

"All us Canadians, we want to put to rest that it's been so long since one of us has won."
Mike Weir

There's no need to remind the country's most prominent player of that history.

"It's our national championship, and all us Canadians, we want to put to rest that it's been so long since one of us has won one," Weir said yesterday.

Fifteen of them will tee it up at Glen Abbey starting today.

That list includes Weir, Calgary's Stephen Ames, Canadian Tour standout Graham DeLaet of Weyburn, Sask., and the two top-ranked amateurs in the world — Nick Taylor of Abbotsford, B.C., and Matt Hill of Bright's Grove, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC defender Jim Brennan and River Plate's German Pezzella, left, collide as they battle for the ball during a friendly match last night at BMO Field. River Plate won 4-3 on penalties.

TFC loses on kicks

SOCCER RESULTS

River Plate 0 **Toronto FC** 0
(4-3 on penalties)

AT

German Pezella scored the winner for River Plate as the Argentines beat Toronto FC 4-3 on penalties to claim the Carlsberg Cup international friendly at BMO Field last night.

The teams finished 0-0 after regulation with both sides coming close in front of a crowd 20,005.

Toronto defender Marco Velez had a chance to extend the shootout in the sixth round, but fired high over River Plate 'keeper Leandro Chichizola's goal.

River showed their skill, while Toronto FC used their muscle and superior size up front to create chances.

Toronto FC lost last year's Carlsberg Cup to Mexican side Pachuca on penalties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

TOUR DE FRANCE Alberto Contador closed in on the overall victory at the Tour de France Wednesday after finishing second behind Frank Schleck of Luxembourg in the 17th stage as the race left the Alps. Lance Armstrong trailed more than two minutes back and fell from second to fourth place overall in the 169-kilometre ride from Bourg-Saint-Maurice to Le Grand-Bornand - seen by many as the toughest stage this year.

DIVING Alexandre Despatie, of Laval, Que., has his sights on a fourth world title. Despatie finished first in the semifinal of the men's three-metre springboard at the world championships heading into today's final round in the event.

GOLF After coming within an eight-foot putt of besting all the top young pros at last week's British Open and becoming golf's oldest major champion, Tom Watson will be competing at the Senior British Open when play starts today.

SOCCER FIFA fined Ivory Coast's football federation $51,800 yesterday after 22 people died in a stampede at a World Cup qualifying match in March.

BASEBALL The Boston Red Sox have added one of the Pirates' middle-of-the-order hitters for the second time in as many seasons, acquiring first baseman Adam LaRoche for two midlevel prospects. The trade follows up last July's three-team deal that sent all-star outfielder Jason Bay of Trail, B.C., to Boston.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Blue Jays win slugfest

MLB RESULTS

Cleveland 6 **Toronto** 10

AT

BASEBALL Marco Scutaro hit two of the Toronto Blue Jays' season-high five homers to highlight his team's most productive offensive night in nearly two months and lead the way in a 10-6 victory over the Cleveland Indians yesterday.

Vernon Wells, Aaron Hill and Alex Rios also went deep while Scutaro matched a career-best with four RBI in the first multi-homer game of his career to give rookie Ricky Romero (8-4) plenty of support before a crowd of 18,375.

The game was a tight affair until the fifth, when the Blue Jays (47-48) built upon their 2-1 lead by posting a five-spot against a shell-shocked Carl Pavano (8-8), whose first four hits allowed each left the yard.

Romero let the Indians (37-58) back into things in the sixth when he served up a three-run shot to Luis Valbuena that ended his night, but Scutaro responded with a three-run homer in the bottom of the frame to restore the breathing room with a 10-4 lead.

While that effectively put away the AL Central cellar-dwellers, they didn't simply go away, plating two more in the seventh on Jhonny Peralta's RBI double and Ben Francisco's run-scoring single.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops not looking into Steelers QB

ALLEGATIONS Law enforcement officials in Nevada have no intention of opening a criminal investigation into allegations Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger raped a Canadian woman at a Lake Tahoe hotel-casino a year ago, the sheriff's department said yesterday.

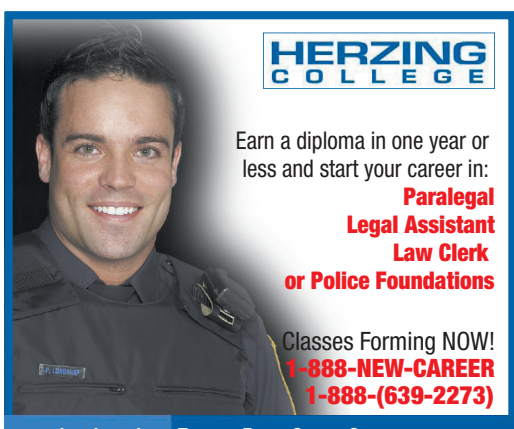
Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy Teresa Duffy said the accuser would have to file a criminal complaint to trigger an investigation into the incident the woman says occurred during a celebrity golf tournament last July.

"The victim is the only one who can do that," Duffy said. "Unless there was a third party that actually witnessed the incident, which according to the civil case, was not the case here."

The 31-year-old Nevada woman, who is originally from Canada, has filed a lawsuit saying the Super Bowl winning quarterback raped her in a hotel penthouse across the street from the golf course, a claim his lawyer vehemently denies.

She also accuses Harrah's officials, including the casino's chief of security, of orchestrating a cover-up of the incident she says she reported to him the next day. The lawsuit alleges Harrah's officials worked to silence her and undermine her credibility rather than investigate her claims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Serve and Protect Your Community Police Foundations

Crime doesn't stop during a recession, and police officers and security specialists continue to be in demand. There are threats from organized crime, gangs, terrorism, fraud and shortages of Police personnel, with many now serving, reaching retirement age. Police services are recruiting for diversity as they want the face of the next generation of police to be as diverse as Canada.

To meet this need, Herzing College is offering a one year 'Police Foundations' diploma program, which includes the Canadian Firearms Safety Courses and an internship of practical work placement.

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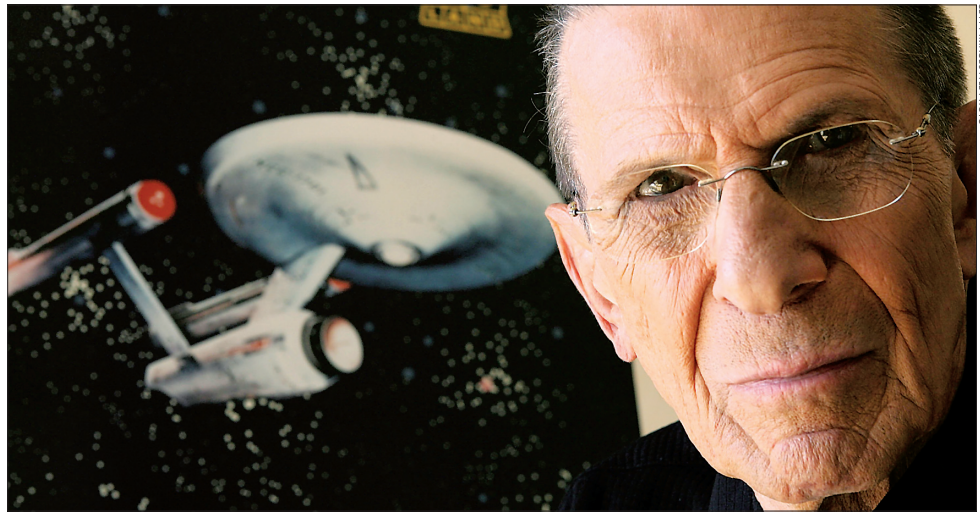
Girls only!
The Girls' Guided Beer Tour, which is part of the Toronto Festival of Beer, takes place on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Led by female beer champion Mirella Amato. For more, go to beerlicious.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Summer Fun

Mmm, ribs!
Scarborough Ribfest 2009 takes place from July 31-Aug. 3 at Thomson Memorial Park. For more, go to scarboroughribfest.com.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Science fiction stars Linda Hamilton and Leonard Nimoy will be making an appearance at the 15th annual Fan Expo Canada, which runs from Aug. 28-30 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Escape from reality at Fan Expo

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

In a massive space filled with thousands of fans of comic books, games and sci-fi celebrities, no one can hear you squeal with glee.

The 15th annual Fan Expo Canada returns to Toronto from Aug. 28-30 to celebrate the best in comics, science fiction, anime, horror and gaming and prove once again that nerds are indeed cool.

The convention will take over 200,000 square feet of space at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and comprise five separate events each focusing on one of the five main genres.

Roughly 50,000 people are expected to attend, making Fan Expo Canada the third largest convention of its kind in North America.

Fan Expo's event co-ordinator, Trevor DeGeer, says this year's event will focus on getting convention-goers in on the act.

"There's a lot of interactive stuff this year — it's a massive show," DeGeer said.

Fans of dress-up will get to compete in the largest costume contest in North America, while horror-movie makeup artists will be on hand to lend a rotting touch to horror fans' look.

For gamers, competitions abound, from board and role-playing games to the on-stage Guitar Hero contest as well as a slew of video game tournaments.

To feed celebrity stalkers' fix, sci-fi and cult stars such as Leonard Nimoy, Linda Hamilton (from the first two Terminator movies) and the Hulk himself — Lou Ferrigno — will be around for photo ops, panel discussions and autograph opportunities.

Canadian Dave Thomas of Bob & Doug fame will be holding free autograph signings and screenings of the new Bob & Doug animated series.

Comic book fans are also in for a treat as professional comic artists will face off in live sketching duels and lead workshop sessions for fans with a knack for drawing.

Horror magazine Rue Morgue will run Horror Expo 2009 at the show and will present screenings and celebrity appearances by cult stars such as Bruce Campbell and James Duval, as well as a large party downtown with entrance available to ticket buyers at the show.

DeGeer says the growing prevalence of comic book, gaming and sci-fi culture in the popular mainstream is a testament to the power of escapist entertainment to bring people together.

"It is an escape from reality — it's a counterculture, a chance to get away. You get to communicate with people who like the same things and be part of a community," DeGeer said.

For more information on Fan Expo Canada 2009, visit fanexpocanada.com.

FAN EXPO PHOTO

Fans can compete in the largest costume contest in North America and take photos with their favourite characters at the Expo.

Ticket information if you want to go

- Tickets to Fan Expo Canada 2009 are $25 for a single day pass, $50 for a deluxe pass (which grants entry into all three days of the convention), and $75 for a VIP pass that includes a recyclable Fan Expo carry bag filled with exclusive comics done for the Expo and other goodies, as well as a chance to get into the convention two hours early on Friday.
- Kids under 12 can enter completely free when accompanied by their parents — just print off a coupon at fanexpocanada.com and show it upon entrance.

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Arts festival

The 2009 Junction Arts Festival, which takes place along one kilometre of Dundas Street West between Keele Street and Quebec Avenue, runs from Sept. 9-13. For more, go to junctionartsfest.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

For the love of horror

After Dark Film Festival set to showcase 45 cult films

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

With buckets of blood and plenty of scares, the Toronto After Dark Film Festival promises to satiate horror-loving Torontonians with their yearly fix of on-screen terror.

This year's festival features 17 feature films and 28 short films in the horror, sci-fi and cult genres from 15 countries and runs from Aug. 14-21 at the Bloor Cinema.

Fresh blood abounds as every film at the festival will have its Toronto theatrical premiere and about half of them will be opening for the first time in North America.

The biggest hit at the festival could well be Trick 'r Treat, a spooky, atmospheric tapestry of five different Halloween-themed scary stories starring Anna Paquin. With only a few select screenings under its belt already and no major theatrical release since being filmed in 2007, the movie enjoys enormous cult status and has one of the highest user review ratings on online database site IMDB.com.

Adam Lopez, founder and director of Toronto After Dark, says the buzz around the film has been growing.

Franklyn will screen at the Toronto After Dark Film Festival.

"A lot of fans are calling this one of those films that will become a signature Halloween movie," Lopez said.

On the science-fiction side of things, Franklyn melds present and future in a multi-storyline psychological thriller that stars Ryan Phillippe, Eva Green and Sam Riley.

For hardcore fans of the old blood'n'guts variety of flick, Lopez says the festival will continue to push the envelope with gory thrillfests like Embodiment of Evil by Brazilian film director Jose Mojica Marins and the Saskatchewan-shot Grace, which famously had audiences fainting when it was screened at the Sundance Film Festival. The film follows the adventures of an undead baby that feeds on human blood and will be the closing gala film at Toronto After Dark.

TORONTO AFTER DARK FILM FESTIVAL PHOTOS

A still from the film Vampire Girl vs. Frankenstein Girl.

As in previous years, all showings will happen at the historic Bloor Cinema, a setting Lopez says is perfect because the vibe of the cinema, with its traditional curtains that open and close and balcony seating, is a match for the tone of old-school scares.

"Bloor Cinema is a natural fit for us and for these kinds of movies — it's become a real cult venue. It's one of the few theatres that still does things the old-fashioned way," Lopez said.

A number of directors are also expected to introduce their films on-stage.

The box office opens on July 29 and tickets will also be available at TOtix.ca.

For more information, check out torontoafterdark.com.

Where to get tickets

- The box office opens on July 29. Tickets will be $12 per screening, $10 for students. All-Access Passes to 18 screenings are already available for an early-bird price of $99 ($89 for students) and regular price of $199 ($109 for students), but festival director Adam Lopez says passes are expected to sell out soon, so go online at torontoafterdark.com if you're interested.
- For frugal horror lovers who like to get in character, Sunday Aug. 16 is Zombie Appreciation Night. You can get in for half price ($6) if you are dressed like a zombie, though the featured films haven't been announced yet.

Expect the unexpected at secret art event, organizers say

LEYLA EMORY
for Metro Canada

What do you get when you mix Absolut Vodka, up-and-coming artist Justin Broadbent and a stellar venue? A big secret.

This much we know: On Aug. 13, Absolut will be hosting a one-day public art installation by Broadbent followed by the opportunity to party through the night in the yet-to-be disclosed venue.

"It's about the unexpected," says Kelly Kretz, senior brand manager for Absolut Vodka at Corby Distilleries Limited.

"It plays to the urban mindset and things popping up in unexpected places."

In keeping with the brand's history of working with artists around the world, Absolut turned to Broadbent. "They offered me full reign in interpreting their slogan, 'In an Absolut World Opportunities Always Pop Up,'" says the Toronto based multi-disciplinary artist.

Broadbent started working on piece three months ago. "There's a lot that can be interpreted from (the statement). For me, it's about looking at opportunity in our lives. It's kind of always around us we just have to have our eyes open."

"For me, it's about looking at opportunity in our lives."
Justin Broadbent

But other than that, he's tight-lipped. Or at least trying to be.

"We're releasing information slowly via social networking," says Kretz. "Our strategy is to build the buzz slowly and organically."

Between Absolut's Facebook page and Broadbent's blog and Twitter, pieces of the puzzle are coming together.

"If you stay up to date with all those things, you'll see I'm slowly leaking it," says Broadbent. "But that's part of the charm."

Toronto-based artist Justin Broadbent will be working on a secret art installation at a yet-to-be disclosed location on Aug. 13.

So is the collaborative element of the project. "People have been tweeting me about ideas they have," he says. "It's cool. I'm trying to incorporate them into the work. Which, in many ways, is what the piece is about, opportunities."

Aside from saying that it's in Toronto, Broadbent will only say the space "lends itself well to the meaning of the piece."

"Let's just say it's completely unique," says Kretz. "It was chosen because it provided a stark contrast to what will be a very premium event. You would never really expect this type of event to happen at this venue."

Broadbent's ultimate goal is to inspire. "I like the idea that people can leave an art piece with ideas and excitement. I have a lot of surprise elements that I think will make people smile. To me that's an important thing."

One final clue: "We're not concerned with filling the space, based on the event and what will be popping up throughout the event," says Kretz.

The plot thickens.

Street fest
The second-annual York Eglinton International Street Festival runs Aug. 14 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Aug. 15 from noon to 9 p.m. Artists including Comfort and Steele will be performing. For more, go to internationalstreetfest.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

South Asian festival returns

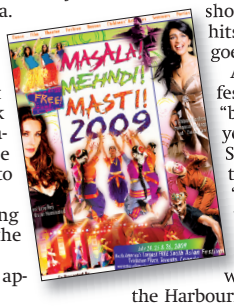
LEYLA EMORY
for Metro Canada

Masala! Mehndi! Masti! — Just saying the name is fun.

Starting tomorrow, the three-day multi-disciplinary South Asian Arts festival hits Toronto's CNE grounds. The words masala, mehndi and masti translate to spice (alluding to cultural diversity), henna (representing art, culture and heritage) and fun.

"These three words sum up what we're all about," says co-founder Jyoti Rana.

Marking its ninth year, the annual event is South Asia's answer to Caribana, Taste of the Danforth and Pride. "We felt that we should be able to celebrate our culture as Canadians, without raising any other country's flag — while respecting a culture and tradition that is 5,000 years old," says Rana.



"We also felt it was critical to present an event that would speak to all generations and be accessible to everyone."

Since kicking off at the at the Harbourfront Centre with approximately 20,000 attendees, M!M!M! has more than quadrupled its attendance over the years. "Bhangra (dance parties) and Bollywood (performances) are always favourites," says Rana. "The incredible range of food vendors and shopping are also hits with festival-goers."

And this year's festival is poised "be the best one yet," says Syma Shah, operations executive. "The vendors will be outside as opposed to indoors. We wanted to bring the Harbourfront feel back to the festival where everyone was outside. We also have a lot of performances, book readings, programming and plays in the Fountainhead Dining Room this year. It's this beautiful regal space with high ceilings and chandeliers."

"It's all-encompassing and lovely, so it's a great honour to be a part of it."
Shibani Kashyap

Other hightlights include a spotlight on Toronto actress Lisa Ray and her work and Saturday's headlining act, Indi-pop and Bollywood playback singer Shibani Kashyap.

Landing in Canada for the first time on Saturday morning, Kashyap is excited to be part of the festivities. "I found (the concept) very interesting. Especially because it celebrates Indian art, culture, music.

"It's all-encompassing and lovely, so it's a great honour to be a part of it."

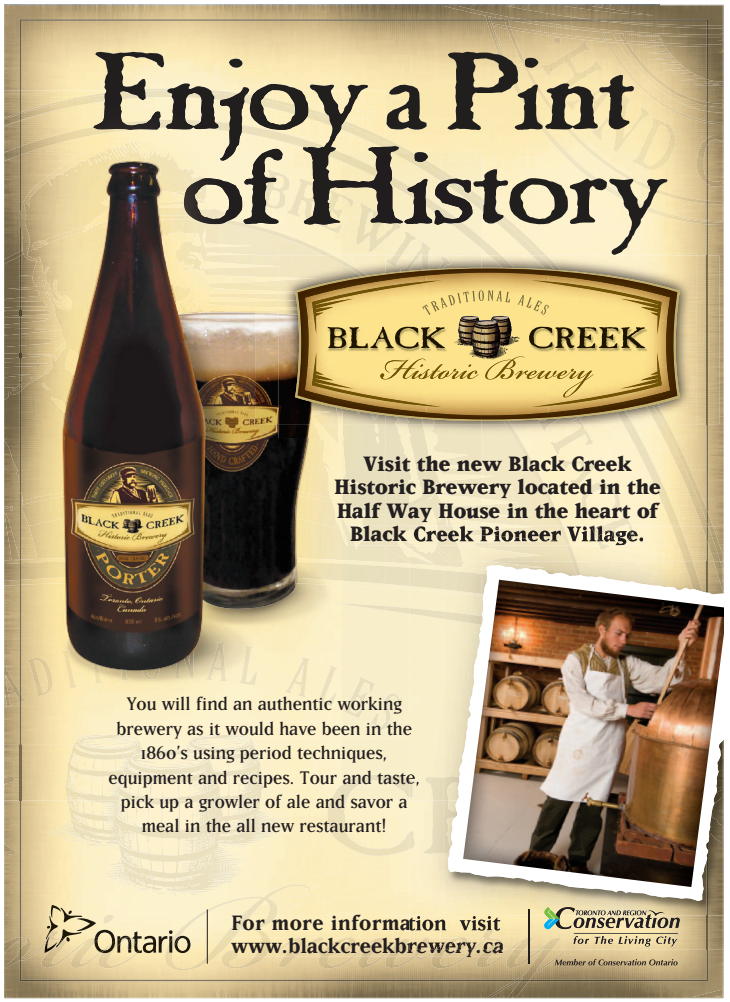
Aside from performing, Kashyap is eager to take in the sights. "I'm looking forward to seeing the other Indian artists based in Canada. I'd love to see the kind of music that they come up with. It's always interesting to collaborate with musicians, especially ones who are based abroad and have a different origin. I'd love to jam up with them. I can really sense that there's a lot of energy and enthusiasm."

Shibani Kashyap is the headlining act on Saturday.

Ticket information if you want to go

M!M!M! is a not for profit organization. Almost the entire festival is free to the public. This year's ticketed events are:

- MyBindi, which will be doing its eigth annual comedy night. This comedy night will be the only ticketed event on-site. Tickets can be bought on mybindi.com.
- Masala! Mehndi! Masti! opening night red carpet party at Courthouse, with special guest Lisa Ray. Music Provided by DJ Jiten. Hosted by OMNI TV's Mohit Rajhans. For tickets, which are $20, call 416-347-5213.
- Luv To Bhang takes place on Saturday at Revival (783 College St. W). Tickets will be available at the door, and are $15 before 11 p.m.
- For programming information and directions, go to masalamehndimasti.com.



All about burlesque

The Toronto Burlesque Festival kicks off tonight and runs until July 26 at the Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. W.). For more, go to torontoburlesquefestival.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Summer of music and more

CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

You can catch various acts this summer, including Cirque du Soleil's Alegria, left, Buskerfest, centre, and the Jonas Brothers.

Music

DEPECHE MODE perform tomorrow night at the Molson Amphitheatre, 416-870-8000.

GARY SINISE AND THE LT. DAN BAND are at Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort tomorrow. Call 1-888-836-8118 for more.

KATY PERRY performs Sunday at Molson Amphitheatre. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

SUMMER RUSH has Akon, Basshunter, Real McCoy and others at Canada's Wonderland's Kingswood Music Theatre. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

COLDPLAY is at the Rogers Centre on July 30. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

CHRIS ISAAK performs at Orillia Casino Rama on July 31. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

CYNDI LAUPER & ROSIE O'DONNELL perform July 30 & 31 at Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort. Call 1-888-836-8118 for tickets.

FLEET FOXES play Massey Hall on Aug. 4. Call 416-872-4255 for more.

LIL WAYNE is at the Molson Amphitheatre on Aug. 4. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

CHICKENFOOT play the Sound Academy on Aug. 4. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

YEAH YEAH YEAHS are at the Kool Haus on Aug. 4 & 5. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

THE PRETENDERS perform at Orillia Casino Rama on Aug. 4 & 5. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

TOOL perform Aug. 5 at Molson Amphitheatre. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

LANG LANG AND HERBIE HANCOCK perform at Massey Hall on Aug. 5. Call 416-872-4255 for more.

BLINK-182 are at the Molson Amphitheatre Aug. 8 & 23. Call 416-870-8000 for more.

NICKELBACK play the Molson Amphitheatre on Aug. 9. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

TORI AMOS plays Massey Hall on Aug. 10. Call 416-872-4255 for more.

BRYAN ADAMS has acoustic performances at Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall from Aug. 13-15. Call 416-872-4255 for tickets.

JASON MRAZ plays the Molson Amphitheatre on Aug. 15. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

JOHN LEGEND performs on Aug. 18 at Orillia Casino Rama. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

PEARL JAM is at the Molson Amphitheatre on Aug. 21. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

ELVIS COSTELLO AND THE SUGARCANES are at Massey Hall on Aug. 28. Call 416-872-4255 for more.

JONAS BROTHERS play Rogers Centre on Aug. 30. Tickets at 416-870-8000.

On stage

JASON ALEXANDER performs at Orillia's Casino Rama on Saturday. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL brings Alegria to Hamilton's Copps Coliseum from July 29-Aug. 2. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

SUMMER WORKS, the Toronto indie theatre and arts festival, runs Aug. 6-16 at various venues. For more, go to summerworks.ca.

KATHY GRIFFIN performs at Orillia Casino Rama on Aug. 29. Call 416-870-8000 for tickets.

Festivals

CARIBANA FESTIVAL has a variety of events — a Junior Carnival, Pan Alive, a parade, more. Runs to Aug. 4. For more, go to caribanafestival.com.

GREEN TORONTO STREET FESTIVAL is at Yonge Dundas Square July 25-26. For more, go to ydsquare.ca.

MUSLIMFEST runs Aug. 1 in Mississauga. For more, go to muslimfest.com or call 416-312-2211.

TORONTO TURKISH FESTIVAL takes place Aug. 1-2 at Yonge Dundas Square. Visit ydsquare.ca for more.

BEERLICIOUS runs Aug. 6-9 at Bandshell Park at Exhibition Place. Log on to beerfestival.ca for more.

ZAIKA — A SOUTH ASIAN FOOD FESTIVAL runs Aug. 7-9 at Harbourfront Centre. Visit harbourfrontcentre.com or call 416-973-4000 for more.

PLANET INDIGENUS contemporary Indigenous arts festival runs Aug. 14-16 & Aug. 21-21 at Harbourfront Centre. Go to harbourfrontcentre.com or call 416-973-4000 for more.

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION returns to Exhibition Place from Aug. 21-Sept. 7. Visit theex.com or call 416-393-6300 for more.

BUSKERFEST takes over St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood from Aug. 27-30. Visit torontobuskerfest.com for more.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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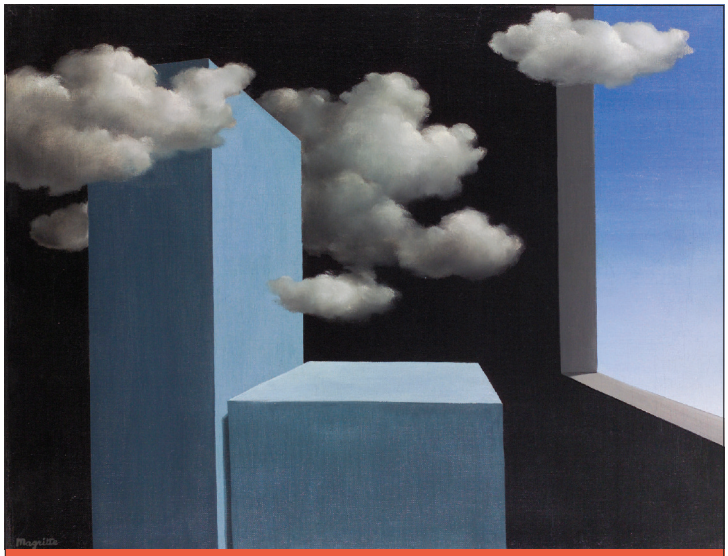

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René Magritte, The Tempest, 1931, oil on canvas. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT. Bequest of Kay Sage Tanguy. © René Magritte / SODRAC (2009)
Surreal Things organized by: V&A
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www.puttingedge.com

Check out these mouse pads from the I-Hos Gallery
Mixing tradition with technology, Corey Moraes from the Tsimshian Nation designed the frog and raven images on these mouse pads, while the whale design is by Corey Bulpitt of the Haida Nation. $17.95, I-Hos Gallery, ihosgallery.com. EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

Metro Homes

Pook Mis Mask
Originally carved around 1880 for a Nuu-chah-nulth potlatch, this wooded mask was later modified to its current incarnation as the Pook Mis, a wood spirit. Price upon request, Out of the Mist Gallery, outofthemistgallery.com.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

"This is a living art form."
Thomas E. Stark, curator of Out of the Mist Gallery

FocusOn FirstNations

Home and native land

Eagle Paddle • Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery
Although perfect for setting above a mantle piece, artist Kevin Cranmer, of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, shaped this yellow cedar paddle, with inset abalone shell and copper, to propel a canoe. $3,700, Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery, coastalpeoples.com, 604-685-9298.

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

While the influence of First Nations' culture on home decor can be found in gift shops across Canada, it is in their original artwork where we find its greatest presence.

"It creates a proud sense of heritage of our country," says Karl Lohnes, home expert for Canada AM. "What better way to display that than through the sculptures, paintings and furnishings of Native Americans?"

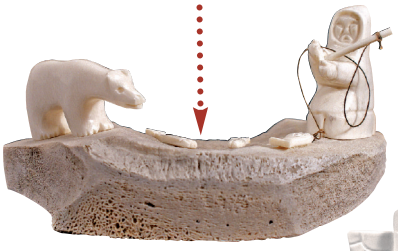
First Nations' art is heavily grounded in historical tradition, where every image has a meaning, a story or a practical use. It also shifts with the times, creating new art forms and methods of expression.

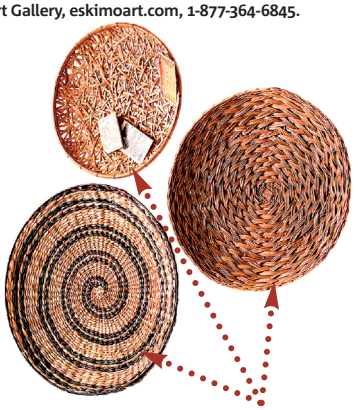
"This is a living art form," says Thomas E. Stark, curator of Out of the Mist Gallery in Victoria, B.C.

Whether you choose to display a traditional print on your wall or buy a set of painted mugs for the kitchen, know that you're supporting the rich and diverse artistic cultures of Canada's first peoples.

Rock Family • Eskimo Art Gallery
With its linear faces and large areas of untouched stone, this abstract style is typical of Nunavut artist Lucy Tasseor Tutsweetok, who has been carving for 50 years. $345, Eskimo Art Gallery, eskimoart.com, 1-877-364-6845.

Fisherman and Bear • Eskimo Art Gallery
Made from a polished caribou antler and mounted on a piece of bone, this carving tells a story about traditional life in the Arctic. This type of physical storytelling is the specialty of carver Jobie Crow Jr., who lives in Northern Labrador. $425, Eskimo Art Gallery, eskimoart.com, 1-877-364-6845.





Woven Bowl Wall Art • West Elm
These woven bowls owe a lot of their design features to the rich tradition of basketry in North American aboriginal cultures. Medium weave, $39; small weave. $36; big swirl weave, $44. West Elm, westelm.com, 416-537-0110.

Totem Pole Cup Set • The Drake General Store
Designed by Rob Southcott and produced by new Toronto-based company IMM Living, these fun stackable coffee cups pay homage to one of the most recognized Northwest Coast aboriginal cultural icons. Set of four for $82, Drake Hotel General Store, thedrakehotel.ca, 416-531-5042 ext. 101.

Eagle Bowl • I-Hos Gallery
Noel Brown, of the Kwagiulth people of eastern Vancouver Island, carved this bowl out of yellow cedar. The eagle symbolizes wisdom and friendship. $977.50, I-Hos Gallery, ihosgallery.com.

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Terms and restrictions apply, please see sales representative for details. Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Renderings are artist concept and images are for mood and impression only. Project "registered under LEED® for Homes". E.&O.E. July 2009.

Monarch

Decor
Read more in the August issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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Have a ball ... or 10

Round out your home decor by adding the finishing touch with these decorative spheres. By Ann Marie Favot

1: Monkey apple 3" $12, Manor (416-544-1700). 2: Steven & Chris lacquered 4¾" $19, The Bay (thebay.com). 3: Brown-and-white checkered 4" $8, Design FX (800-859-5081). 4: Alpaco turquoise and brown 5" $27, Manor. 5: Milk 2½" $10, AT Design Group (atdesignhome.com). 6: Cream checkered 4" $7, Design FX (800-859-5081). 7: Vine 3½" $6, Samaco Trading (samacotrading.com). 8: Cleo lead crystal 5" $165, Elte (elte.com). 9: Alabaster 2" $14, Manor. 10: Mirrored 5" bookend $24, Chapters and Indigo Books & Music (chapters.indigo.ca).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FELIX WEDGWOOD. CAKE PLATES, PIER 1 IMPORTS.

Home & Style

Cleaners that are even more clean

J.R. WATKINS Now that J.R. Watkins' all-natural cleaning products are available in Canada, the only dilemma is which to love more — the toxin-free plant-based cleaning formulas, or the delightfully old-school apothecary-style packaging? **Lemon Toilet Bowl Cleanser, $10, Lavender window cleaner, $6.**

Light-weight travelling irons

J.R. WATKINS Despite weighing in at less than two pounds, Rowenta's new travel iron still has the steam power of a full-size iron. A must-have for the garmentista on the go! **First class DA-1560 travel irons, $50 each.**

–BRETT WALTHER

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10" x 13.57" Metro King West/Harbour Ad Client: Plazacorp Agency: McCabe Neill Job: M5892 July 09

Canadian Gardening Magazine
Read more in the Summer issue of Canadian Gardening magazine.
ON SALE NOW! canadiangardening.com

Outside Decor

Canadian Gardening

Tropical backyard gardens

These quick-growing, colourful specimens will turn any space into into a tropical oasis

Castor bean (Ricinus communis)

Hardiness | Tender shrub; rootstock hardy to 0˚C with dry winter mulch
Native of | Africa
Large (15 to 40cm) glossy, palmately lobed leaves vary in colour from mid-green to reddish purple; 2.5-cm-long greenish yellow or red flowers are followed by reddish brown seed capsules.

'Striata' canna lily (Canna 'Striata' syn. 'Pretoria')

Hardiness | Tender perennial; rhizomes are hardy to –7˚C with dry winter mulch
Native of | Asia, Tropical Americas

Bright green, yellowveined leaves adorn stiff, upright stems crowned with 8-cm-wide orange flowers that attract hummingbirds.

Shoo-fly plant (Nicandra physalodes)

Hardiness | Tender annual; will be damaged at 5˚C or colder
Native of | Peru
Mid-green leaves and 4-cm-wide, pale violet to sky-blue flowers with a white throat. Blooms are followed by ornamental round berries enclosed in green calyces, reminiscent of Chinese lanterns (Physalis spp.).

Moonflower (Ipomoea alba)

Hardiness | Tender perennial vine; will be damaged at 7˚C or colder

Native of | Tropical Americas

Deep green leaves and trumpet-shaped, white flowers 12 to 14 cm across that open at dusk.

'Purple Majesty' (Pennisetum glaucum)

Hardiness | Hardiness | Short-lived tender perennial; hardy to 5˚C

Native of | Africa

Summer heat causes the young, green leaves to turn deep mahoganypurple; golden tancoloured flowers turn to shiny purple seedheads in fall.

Angel's trumpet (Datura metel)

Hardiness | Tender annual; will be damaged at 7˚C or colder
Native of | China
Purple stems bear leaves ranging in colour from mid-green to purple. White, cream, yellow, red or violet flowers are fragrant after dark; single or double, up to 15 cm long.

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Think your home has character?
• Think your abode has character? Email douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca why and you could be featured on Metro's Your Space. Not all submissions will be considered, however. But it can't hurt to try.

Contemporary feel and that Old Town charm

Your Space

Resident: Jessica Glover, 30, Publicist
Space: One-bedroom condominium
Location: Old Town Toronto
Price: Owned

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

At just 530 square feet, the size of Jessica Glover's space serves to become cluttered, quick. But by furnishing it with custom made pieces, this orderly publicist has crafted a condo she dubs "classic, simple and unique."

"In a small space, everything has to have a dual function," said Glover. Its flexibility is immediately evident upon entrance, where built-in shelving has turned a tiny hallway coat closet into a mini-wardrobe.

Functionality flows into Glover's bedroom where, beside the bed her father built with sub-mattress and frontal storage, sits a novel night table.

"It used to be a shoe shine kit. You'd put the money in the top, and the side compartments would hold all of the tools," said Glover. "Now, it's my jewelry box."

But Glover doesn't tailor everything in her space to its size. Sometimes, she lets the space itself inspire her custom creations, like the coffee table in her living room.

"I fell in love with the windows, and I got the table built around it," she said. "I really like unique pieces that stand alone and that you can't just walk into Ikea and find."

You're also unlikely to find a terrace in downtown Toronto that rivals Glover's. At just less than 500 square feet, it's nearly the same size as the whole of her condo's interior and maintains its originality with planters tailor made for the patio.

"It was the terrace that basically won me over," she said "I really like the dark tones that contrast with the wood. It's very urban chic. Also, having a barbecue is kind of unheard of on condo-land, but I have a full one."

Publicizing

• Jsquared2 Public Relations is the firm jointly run by Jessica Glover and co-founding partner Jumol Royes, which represents lifestyle, entertainment and fashion clients. See jsquared2pr.com.

ALL PHOTOS BY BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Check out some of the shots from this week's Your Space.

Thinking of buying?
For more information on the **Courtice Village** development featured below visit senatorhomes.com or call 905-723-5989.

Big homes in small spaces

Suite Talk

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

For buyers looking to get the most house for the least amount of money, homes in Courtice Village aim to maximize space while maintaining definition.

The Senator Homes development at Prestonvale Road and Bloor Street in Courtice, Ont., contains homes on lots as small as 30-feet-wide, but Senator Homes marketing and sales manager Gary McIlravey said models like the Colborne, on a 34-foot-wide lot, offers the same luxuries as those on larger ones.

"This is the smallest lot you can put a house that's got a double-car garage on, while also having some semblance of a decent front entry," he said. "When you walk into it, it comes across as a larger home on a larger lot than it might actually be."

The dramatic appearance is achieved inside by rooms that come across as separate but transitional. For example, McIlravey said the Colborne model's "great room" is open to the dining room with three cut-out sections in the wall dividing the spaces, while it also backs onto the kitchen/breakfast area, partitioned only by an island.

"We try to maximize the space, create a real sense of openness and maximize the use of natural light while also creating a clear definition between the living spaces in the house so you're not feeling like you've got a difficult room to furnish because it's ill defined."

Seen here are some shots of the interior of one of the model suites at the Courtice Village development.

McIlravey defines the interior as a collection of various modern vistas that catch the eye as you walk through the home.

"The colour palette is lighter to appeal to a younger buyer with a brighter, airier theme throughout the house," he said. "The furniture tends to be a little more contemporary and less traditional."

Detached homes in Courtice Village range from 1,491 to 2,950 square feet on 30 to 44 foot-wide lots. Prices start at $244,900 and reach $385,990.

Another urban tree tip
Mulch is best, but if you prefer to plant around the tree, take out thirsty competing plants such as grass from around the base of the tree. If you want ground cover, consider periwinkle or English ivy, which isn't as thirsty as grass, larger plants or flowers. SYLVIA PUTZ/FOR METRO CANADA

The epic plight of the urban tree

HomeScape
Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

Urban trees have a hard time of it. They have to contend with poor soil, the ravages of seemingly constant construction and soil compaction associated with trucks and heavy machinery, air pollution, salt, drought, and poor planting and pruning techniques.

And yet, their benefits in the concrete jungle are numerous: Generating oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide and other pollutants, providing shade in the summer, reducing glare and heat on gritty urban streets, attenuating high winds and reducing the cost of heating and cooling in nearby buildings.

And there's more. Their roots absorb storm runoff and decrease the amounts rushing into urban drains and sewers. They provide habitat for birds and other species, and they add beauty, sound and movement to the urban landscape. In fact, mature trees on or near our properties increases their value.

They do so much for us, from improving air quality to providing us with that pleasantly cool walk down a shady street on a hot and sun-baked day. But their considerable charms can easily be overlooked and taken for granted. As a famous Canadian-born songstress Joni Mitchell once sang, "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone."

For example, century-old trees such as maple and oak in big city neighbourhoods such as mine are coming down, it seems to me, faster than they're being replaced. They are easily damaged by wind or rot, and the city takes them down and to their credit, replaces some of them with spindly saplings. Good intentions, but it's just not the same, not for a long time anyway. When a big old tree comes down, there's a real sense of loss.

Even the younger trees that have managed to grow from a little hole in the sidewalk beside a busy urban route are routinely ripped out when they are in the way of construction. Not that I'm a sentimentalist (or maybe I am), but jeez, these trees have a hard enough time of it, why not give them a break whenever we can?

Tree-saving time

If you feel the same way I do, here's what you can do to make things a little easier for any urban trees in your sphere of influence.

- During dry spells, give your tree a slow, deep soaking every seven to 10 days. Since the roots fan out around the tree, water in a circle around the stem.
- Use organic mulch such as wood chips or bark around the trunk of the tree at least two to three feet out from the trunk in an open bowl or saucer shape seven to 10 cm thick, so it is thinnest next to the trunk. Do not mound mulch around the tree trunk as this promotes bark decay.
- Protect your tree from damages during construction. Build a temporary fence around the tree to protect the trunk, roots and keep rubble and construction waste from degrading the quality of soil around the tree. Also keep heavy machinery and trucks off the root zone, if possible, or put down temporary carpet of wood chips or plywood to prevent soil compaction and rutting.
- Inspect the tree routinely for signs of rot, such a soft spongy wood or mushrooms. Also check for damage after lightning

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Urban trees need all the help they can get.

Keep those trees alive!

- Avoid unnecessary pruning. If you must prune, leave the big jobs to tree experts for safety reasons. But if you plan to remove dead or damaged branches yourself, make two cuts, especially for heavier branches—one to remove most of the branch and another to take it flush to the stem from which it emerges. Do this to avoid splitting or damaging the tree close to the stem. Don't bother painting the exposed wood; a healthy tree should be able to heal itself.
- When you renew mulch, take the opportunity to loosen soil around the base of the trunk so water and air can penetrate more easily. Also work in a thin layer of compost once a year.
- Don't plant raised beds around the base of the tree because it can cause the bark to rot and make the tree vulnerable to diseases.
- Avoid using salt in the winter near the tree.

–SYLVIA PUTZ

New vs. resale – the question that never gets old

TheHunt
Amit Paul

Metronews.ca/thehunt

If there's one question amongst home buyers that never fades with the seasons it's the question of whether to buy new or resale. For your personal requirements consider the most prominent branches on the home buying tree — location, price, and personal satisfaction.

In terms of location, buying resale comes with a solid idea of what you're getting into. The current state of the neighborhood is a very good indicator of what you and your family can expect. On the new side, the gamble is how close to the idealistic community portrayed in the builder's media will the end result actually be? Much depends on the quality of the people that move in, the reputation of the builder and area influences, such as proximity to highways, downtown Toronto, schools, golf courses, etc. Another factor to consider is that new developments are somewhat restrictive in location. Of course flexibility in other regards can be higher with new homes — customizing tiles and cabinetry, colour schemes, external finishes, etc. Of course, with resale, you do have the option of renovating to your tastes, should you choose to do so.

When looking at price the simple rule is there is no simple rule. New is not necessarily the better price, and resale is not necessarily more expensive. In fact, and hang on to your hats for this one, in today's market new is almost never the better price per square foot buy. Resale homes of comparable quality and characteristics are actually cheaper than those brand new, especially after taking into consideration all closings costs and miscellaneous fees. Understanding that closing costs and initial moving costs are higher for new homes simply means that this debate cannot be settled on the basis of price. In other words, if you're only concerned with price then purchasing a brand new home from the builder will likely prove to be your Plan B. When it comes to condo developments, at any given time, there will be one new development in the city that stands above the rest as a uniquely affordable deal.

The real, perhaps only, deciding factor to the new vs. resale debate is personal preference. Your family can profit just as much from a resale home's appreciation as it might from a new home, and a new home can, in many cases, be just as convenient and comfortable as a resale. The question is what's more valuable for you? Is it the feeling that can only come with knowing your home is brand-spanking, never been seen, sparkling new — or would you prefer a resale home in an already established neighbourhood? Do you want to see a brand new community grow all around you, or are you happier knowing exactly what you're getting into?

The answer lies not in finding the better deal, value, location, price or whatever else. It actually lies in determining which type of home suits your family best.

Happy Hunting!

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

Home buying tip

It's a fairly common practice to have a financing condition on a home purchase and it's probably a good idea for a first-time buyer. –ROBYN YOUNG/FOR METRO CANADA

The signing, and the long wait

Buying a **Home**

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

Metro reporter Robyn Young will be taking readers on a whirlwind tour of the trials and tribulations of buying her first home. Check back every week for her accounts.

There's a funny feeling that goes along with being a first-time home buyer that I can only liken to that of playing Monopoly.

You're dealing with hundreds of thousands of dollars but not one red cent of it ever passes through your own fingers.

Although I haven't officially closed on my new condo purchase, I got to sign my initials about a dozen times on a document called the Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

I knew I was agreeing to hand over just under $300,000 to a stranger for a piece of property I'd only looked at twice (I believe I may have spent more time choosing a new deodorant) and it didn't even phase me.

The only explanation I could think of was that it feels like it's not real money I'm dealing with and most of it is not my money.

I went to the bank, said I wanted to borrow $270,000, signed a bunch of papers, initialed a bunch more and … Bob's your uncle. Well, to be fair, maybe it wasn't quite that easy.

About three months ago, when I decided it was time to start seriously looking for a place to call home, I visited my friendly neighbourhood bank and sat down with a financial advisor.

After a number of questions about my income, savings and debts, he came up with an amount the bank would be able to loan me, gave me a semi-official piece of paper that confirmed I was good for about $315,000 and sent me on my way saying: "Good luck in your search; call me when you've found a place."

When I found my new condo, it was just under $300,000, I figured I was good for the money, signed on the dotted line and then called up my bank guy.

I handed over five per cent, or about $15,000 of my own money as a deposit for the seller and knew I had another $15,000 ready in the bank for the remainder of the down payment on closing day.

When you're buying a home, it's an interesting experience dealing with hundreds of thousands of dollars without a penny passes through your fingers, writes Robyn young.

When I walked into my bank guy's office he said: "Congratulations, you found a place! Did you put in a condition for financing?"

"Pardon me?" I asked politely.

He explained that it's common to write a condition on financing into the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, as a safety net for the buyer.

In other words, if your mortgage approval falls through, you're not held to the purchase or the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I stared at him blankly and asked what would happen if my approval fell through; would it be up to me to quickly scrape together $300,000?

"We're not going to talk about that," he said with a smile. "It's not going to happen."

It seemed to take a nail-bitingly long time for the final approval on my mortgage to come through — about four or five days.

During that time I waited, called my banker daily and wished I'd added a condition for financing to my purchase agreement.

In the end my mortgage was approved and all's well that ends well.

I'm now in debt for an amount of money I've never even come close to handling in Parker Brothers bills, but at least I've got a good, reliable bank backing me up.

I figure it will start feeling a little less like play money when my first mortgage payment is swiped from my account, however.

More online
For more home, condo and decor news check Metronews.ca.

Organization 101 for families

All year long, families are faced with the collective challenge of balancing family life with the strict routine of school and parents' work schedules. The best way to make this daily ballet feel like a breeze is to get organized, keep everything in its place and involve everyone in creating an efficient routine.

Busy families can save time, tension and arguments by labelling most of their kids' belongings. Stick names on school clothing and supplies, sports equipment and favourite toys, and it can go as far as their favourite cereal bowl, their toothbrush, etc.

Once you've gathered everything that needs a label, let the kids be in charge of this project — it's a great way to get them involved. A good electronic labeller is a must-have for the organized crew. Brother pioneered electronic labelling more than 20 years ago and today offers its P-touch models at most office retailers and online at brother.ca.

Get everything in order by dedicating a storage space for each member of the family: From labelling shelves to drawers in the entrance closet. Plus, by labelling virtually everything, you can prevent mix ups or lost belongings; no more searching through the lost and found, and no more money spent replacing items.

Every morning is a race against the clock. Save precious time by labelling names on lunch boxes, food containers, juice bottles, cutlery, etc. Clearly identified containers also prevent allergy mix-ups at school. This also allows you to easily scan for one's lunch in the fridge and to stuff lunch boxes in a snap.

"Our P-touch labellers are ideal for busy families because they work on clothing, camping and outdoor gear, gardening, workshop and garage items, and so on," says Brian Caldwell, Senior Product Manager at Brother Canada.

Countries have capitals, corporations have headquarters and families have their kitchen. To keep up with busy families, the kitchen must be the most organized room in the house.

Optimizing storage space is the best way to get the most out of your kitchen. Design your kitchen storage taking into account its multiple uses, taking advantage of vertical and hard to reach shelves and corners. Items can be stored on hooks behind doors and on walls, and Lazy Susans turn dead areas into extra storage space. Group similar items together in containers and label them so that everyone can find what they are looking for.

By making the most out of the house, you'll create order in the busiest home and spend less time organizing and more time enjoying your family.

NEWS CANADA

0 catches.

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Is this a buyer's market or what?

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q I am a first-time homebuyer and I am getting quite frustrated. Contrary to the doom and gloom of a recession I still read about in the news, I have encountered several potential purchases where there are multiple bids and I am on the losing end of the equation. What is going on?

A There are a number of factors at play that are making your search for a new home frustrating. It is less legally oriented but your situation still bears addressing in my column.

The first is that because interest rates are so low, a host of first-time homebuyers are entering the market with huge pent up demand. They have saved their money over the past year or two and want to get into the market now. Hence the multi-bid situation. The statistics say that 2009 June transactions were up 27 per cent from June of 2008. Quite an amazing statistic in a recession.

The higher end of the market is hardly moving with some of my realtor colleagues who historically trade in larger more expensive homes, indicating that their volume is down by half or more. A potential explanation of this is that these are the people/executives who have been hardest hit by the recessionary forces and seen huge losses in net worth. They are hunkering down and waiting out the recovery.

Multiple bid situations lead to a variety of situations and can force behaviour that can lead to big problems. No one should be submitting an offer that is not conditional on house inspection (or even worse, termite inspection). If you do not address this potential problem finding issue, you may discover you have purchased a lemon for a home: A situation that first time homebuyers usually don't have the financial resources to address.

I know the tendency if you have been burnt a couple of times in a multiple bid situation is to go in with no conditions, but you are playing with fire if you don't make sure you have built in the necessary conditions to protect yourself.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Photo-worthy jewelry

California jewelry designer Michele Baratta offers heartfelt gift ideas like picture frame jewelry and picture frame key rings as well as delicate layering necklaces and funky metallic bangles. Visit shopmichele.com METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Spanish-inspired shades

Nails take a dramatic turn this fall with OPI's new Colección de España, 12 on-trend shades inspired by the colors of Spain. Colours include Here Today ... Aragon Tomorrow (pictured, far left to right), Pink Flamenco and Give Me Moor! The collection will be available Aug. 5 at professional salons and spas across Canada ($10.95). For a location nearest you, visit opi.com. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Old world meets new

First-Nation fashion melds the past with the present

JANINE FALCON
For Metro Canada

Perhaps in First Nation culture more than most, historical influences in modern design are about identity, preservation and celebration.

Ancaster-based fashion designer Angela DeMontigny (angelamontigny.com) works with traditional motifs and traditional materials such as suede, beads and leather hides, all of which pay homage to her Chippewa-Cree-Métis background and serve as a reminder to the world that the First Nations is more than old westerns. "It's a living, breathing culture," she says.

Signature DeMontigny pieces include fitted leather blazers, tiered goat-suede skirts and now handbags. Distributed in boutiques and galleries throughout North America and Europe, her work has received attention from media such as Flare, Chatelaine, Women's Wear Daily and CTV.

FocusOn FirstNations

Celebrities such as singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark, actor Adam Beach and actor/singer Tamara Podemski have worn DeMontigny's garments for events including the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

Manitobah Mukluks (manitobah.ca) is a Winnipeg-based company that produces high-end beaded and fur-trimmed leather and suede footwear. These are inspired by the mukluks and moccasins Métis owner Sean McCormick and his family wore when he was a child. "They're as close to being authentic as possible without being handmade," he says.

AYA Accessories sunglasses, $35, and Esme reading glasses, $60.

Angela DeMontigny Aspen Weekender bag, $545.

Read more on below ››

>> Continued from above

Rubber soled for urban life, Manitobah Mukluks pieces are available at select North American boutiques (including New York City's Intermix) and in Europe. The line is also hitting the celebrity sidewalks on feet belonging to Beyoncé, Marisa Tomei, Kate Moss and Kate Hudson, and has appeared in magazines such as Vogue, InStyle and Elle.

Manitobah's biggest sellers are classic mukluks ($279 - $299). Designed to shape themselves around each foot (there is no left or right, as per tradition) they also leave a distinct footprint: the Vibram rubber sole features an intricate landscape design by Winnipeg aboriginal artist Heather Steppler.

First Nation art has also found its way to eyewear launching this summer. Reading glasses and sunglasses ($35 - $60) from AYA Accessories' Pacific Northwest Collection feature contemporary and playful designs by Corrine Hunt, a BC-based artist with a Kwakiutl and Tlingit heritage. Motifs include the Sun, which represents nourishment, truth and clarity; the Hummingbird, spirit bearer of good news; and the Wolf, the family protector.

"My appreciation for First Nations and indigenous art comes from growing up in Australia and Vancouver," says the collection's creator, Carla D'Angelo Taylor, who spotted Hunt's work at a gift show five years ago.

She and Hunt, who is primarily a jewelry and custom-furnishings designer, are delighted by early reactions to AYA's traditional-contemporary fashion fusion. "First Nations response has been amazing," says Hunt, adding that the idea was also to get the attention of people who wouldn't ordinarily seek out at First Nations art. An added charity component directs $2 from each sale to ONEXONE, which supports local initiatives including the First Nations Breakfast Program.

Manitobah Mukluks in black, $359.

RIGHT: A model displays Angela DeMontigny leather blazer, suede skirt and leather bag.

Vans with an Aboriginal twist

Newest to the First Nation fashion scene is Seattle-based Canadian expat Louie Gong (eighthgeneration.com).

Better known as a racial-identity activist, Gong, who is Nooksack, Chinese, French and Scottish, stumbled onto a budding career as an artist when he bought his first pair of Vans. "They were things other people had when I was growing up," he said.

An impulsive decision to personalize a plain grey pair with a Sharpie led to more orders for his on-shoe designs than he can handle, as well as favourable attention from Steve Van Doren, son of Vans founder Paul Van Doren, and Sam McCracken, Nike's Native American business manager. (A larger market than Gong's growing fan-base hasn't yet been identified, so there aren't any plans for mass production so far.)

"Merging traditional [Aboriginal] artwork with the pop-culture of Vans has really connected with a broad range of people," says Gong, who quickly switched from markers to more durable fabric dye and charges $200 per pair, including the shoe cost and shipping. "More than something aesthetically pleasing, they're an exploration of identity relevant for young people's lives."

JANINE FALCON/
FOR METRO NEWS CANADA

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Rock redux

Barbara Bui's rocker chic aesthetic couldn't be more 'right now'

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Bui in her Paris work studio (above) and looks from her autumn '09 collection (above right).

Barbara Bui has always flown under the radar. Even though she has a decades-strong global cult following, she's never really fit into the fashion world's "star system" as she calls it, referring to the industry's tendency to place certain designers (usually men) on pedestals.

So it's ironic that all of the ideas that she's built her small global empire on — Parisian rock 'n' roll chic, androgyny, leather — are all having major moments for fall due to collections created by some of her male peers.

"I think it can be difficult for women now," she says while we sit in her bright, sprawling work studio in the Paris district Le Marais.

"When I began, we had Sonia Rykiel, but I think it's changed since then. I think women are judged harder," the French Vietnamese designer admits. Rather than design heady collections with fantastical, esoteric references like some of her peers in Paris, Bui creates straightforward garments in rich fabrics that manage to be both wearable and edgy. When you look at a Barbara Bui collection you know what you're getting, there's no need for head scratching or interpretation. And that's perhaps why women love her. She creates clothing that she would want to wear herself.

Bui began designing fashion in the '80s during her days as a boutique owner. She would create pieces that she wanted to wear, but couldn't find in stores.

"I wanted something edgy, to counterbalance the feminine part of myself. I wanted it to be a little androgynous but still elegant and sexy," she explains. In the '90s she began having a hard time finding trousers in a silhouette that she liked. So she made her own. "The trousers in the '90s were awful and boring. The cut was all wrong. It was too much about function and this executive woman. I pushed the value of the feminine. Since then, trousers have become an important part of my world," she recalls.

"I think women are judged harder."
Barbara Bui, designer

Leather, another Bui trademark, also plays a prominent role in her fall collection, from skinny jacket and pant pairings to mini-dresses.

Studded belt, $22.90, H&M.

Nylon tote, $74, Banana Republic.

Colour-blocked shirt, $98, Lacoste.

Straw fedora, $60, Lacoste.

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Summer of colour

Men have always had an uneasy relationship with colour.

As the stereotypes go, men who stay within the lines of black, grey, navy and white are somehow more solid and trustworthy and macho than their colourfully attired brothers.

Somewhere along the way, men became accustomed to living without colour and never developed skill at the play.

For decades, menswear has planted its flag in a barren desert of hues — bland, beige and monotone.

So it was greeted with some surprise when designers, in their collections for this summer, went wild with bright saturated colours.

The retail colour revolution has started slowly and rather inconspicuously. In the most staid of department stores, next to the utilitarian white Jockeys and black McGregors, are graphically patterned and wildly hued underwear and socks.

The colour wheel is spinning in other subtle ways, as well. The simple polo shirt, a summer basic for the average Joe, comes in a wide array of shades at the Gap this summer.

And savvy retailers are zeroing in on the most likely customer: the young.

Men's accessories such as tote bags, sneakers and hats make for easy targets, the theory being that bright colour is more palatable in small doses.

Shoe stores, such as Little Burgundy, sell sneakers in bright Crayola hues.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

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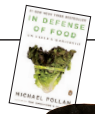
Eater's Manifesto bestselling in Canada

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan topped last week's bestselling cookbooks list at Amazon.ca. Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite came in second and The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals came in third. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Food

On Cooking with the Wolfman, discover how North American Bison is fused with exotic spices, Cholent is slow-cooked, Fricasse of Rabbit can have a twist and Chick Pea Curry is served with traditional game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

ANDREW HOSHKIW PHOTO

David Wolfman

The show is broadcast nationally on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. For information about the seventh season, visit cookingwiththewolfman.com

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Food from the native tongue

Chef David Wolfman cooks up own brand of fusion cuisine

David Wolfman — a descendant of the Lillooet band, Xaxli'p Nation — grew up in Toronto. He observed cooking skills from his mother at a very young age and was mesmerized at the fascinating stories and legends that his mother would share.

Wolfman later decided to focus his education in cooking at George Brown College in Toronto, through the apprenticeship program, and would later discover his aboriginal roots. He fused his international culinary techniques with the traditional foods that he was exposed to, and in 1992 he opened an Aboriginal Fusion catering company named Lillooet Catering, which featured an aboriginal fusion menu.

In 1994, he developed and taught an Aboriginal Cuisine program at George Brown College and in 1999 he wrote and hosted Cooking with the Wolfman, which airs nationally on The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

In season seven of the show, Wolfman shares his Aboriginal Fusion recipes (traditional foods with a modern twist), now with an international flare.

Wolfman is currently a professor at George Brown College and can be reached at david@cookingwiththewolfman.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARLENE FINN

Cholent was traditionally slow-cooked overnight.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARLENE FINN

Garlic and Thyme Knishes.

Garlic and Thyme Knishes

INGREDIENTS:

Dough:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 ts baking powder
- 1/4 ts salt
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup oil
- ¾ cups water

Potato Filling:

- 4 large potatoes; cooked mashed
- ¼ lb chicken fat; melted
- 1 egg
- 1 onion; minced and browned
- 2 heads garlic, roasted in foil
- 1 tsp fresh thyme chopped
- 1 tb oil
- 1/2 ts salt
- 3 eggs for egg wash

METHOD:

Sift flour, baking powder, and salt into a bowl. Beat egg, oil, and water and add to the flour mixture. Knead lightly until dough is soft; it will be slightly oily but not sticky. Cover and set in a warm place for 1 hour.

To make filling, combine all ingredients and mix well. Divide dough in half and roll as thin as possible into a rectangle. Spread the filling on long side of the dough and roll like a jelly roll. Cut into 1-in. slices.

Pull ends of the dough over the filling and tuck into the knish to form small cakes. Brush with egg wash and place on a well-greased baking sheet. Bake in a 375 degree F. oven until brown.

FocusOn FirstNations

Cholent

Aboriginal/Jewish Cuisine

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 medium onions, diced
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 lbs kosher beef inside round. diced
- 1 cup lima beans, dry
- 1 cup barley, rinsed
- 4 large potatoes, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
- 2 sprigs rosemary, fresh
- 2 med carrots, sliced on a bias
- 2 quarts kosher beef stock
- Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD:

In a large rondue, sweat off the onion, remove and reheat pan, brown beef in small portions, remove and hold.

Deglaze pan with a bit of the stock, add the garlic and fresh rosemary, scrape sediment from pan, add more stock bring to a boil and add the rest of the beef, beans, potatoes and carrots. Preheat oven to 325 C. Let simmer for a while, add barley and the seasoning. Cover, bring to a simmer and then place in an oven-proof casserole dish and cover with lid.

Bake in the oven at 325 C until tender (approx 1-2 hours), remove let rest and serve with knishes ... mmm! (Cholent was traditionally slow cooked overnight.)

Apple Fritters

Aboriginal/Irish Cuisine

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 ounces flour
- 5 fluid ounces water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs (separated)
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 2 large cooking apples
- 4 ounces sugar
- Lemon juice
- Oil for deep frying

METHOD:

Make batter at least an hour before required, using following method:

Sift together flour and salt. Make a well in the center. Add the cooled melted butter and some of the water and egg yolks. Work in the flour and beat until smooth. Add remaining water. Leave to stand.

Just before using, beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry. Fold into batter mix.

Peel, core and slice apples (slices about 1/4-1/2 inch thick). Dip into batter and deep fry in very hot oil (175-180C) until golden.

Drain and serve dredged with sugar and sprinkled with lemon juice.

Masala! Mehndi! Masti!

North America's largest free South Asian Festival, Masala! Mehndi! Masti! hits Toronto this weekend. At the Exhibition Place, M!MM! will feature a cultural explosion of mouthwatering signature dishes: samosa, channa masala, curry chicken and more. Visit masalamehndimasti.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

That '70s fizz

Like so many of you, I caught Kiss live last week on their long-awaited tour of Eastern Canada. Seeing Gene, Paul and those other two guys rocking like it was still the '70s made me think about all the other things from that decade that have been able to make a successful comeback in recent years.

Liquid-wise, we've seen everything from the return of classic cocktails (like the martini) to rosé wines and anything made with the riesling grape. This year the beverage trend from the disco era seeing the greatest popularity upswing is the spritzer: The original mix of white wine and soda water.

Canada's Naked Grape wines have proved a hit across the country so a combination of carbonation with varietal fruit seems a natural progression. Both the **Naked Grape Chardonnay Spritzer (4 x 341 ml, $9.95 - $11.49)** and **Naked Grape White Zinfandel Spritzer (4 x 341 ml, $9.95 - $11.49)** keep to their wine themes but with a refreshing zing that tastes nice over ice.

Seagram's Tropical Lemon Lime Spritzer (4 x 341 ml, $7.95 - $11.04) adds effervescence to its blend of citrusy fruit juice and vodka to make a weightier, yet equally appealing, summertime quaffer.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Leaves your stomach and wallet nicely full

Store-bought, packable snacks for school or work can be pricey and some of the ingredients are less than desirable. Sure, there are all-natural brands, but they usually cost even more.

For about 50 cents each you can make these oatmeal, raspberry and peach snack bars, which kids (and adults, for that matter) would love to find tucked into their lunch bags.

The soft, chewy bars are made with plenty of fruit and aren't too sweet, so they even make a great on-the-go breakfast treat.

LARRY CROWE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oatmeal, Raspberry and Peach Snack Bars.

Oatmeal, Raspberry and Peach Snack Bars

MAKES 16 BARS

INGREDIENTS:

- 75 ml (1/3 cup) orange juice
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 30 ml (2 tbsp), plus 125 ml (1/2 cup) packed light brown sugar, divided
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) frozen or fresh raspberries
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) diced frozen or fresh peaches
- 375 ml (1 1/2) cups quick rolled oats
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten

METHOD:

In a medium saucepan, whisk together orange juice, cornstarch and 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the brown sugar. Add raspberries and peaches, then stir over medium-high until mixture is simmering and thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Coat an 18-by-28-cm or 23-by-23-cm (7-by-11-inch or 9-by-9-inch) baking dish with cooking spray.

In a large mixing bowl, combine oats, flour, remaining 125 ml (1/2 cup) of brown sugar, butter and baking soda. Mix together with a fork until dough is crumbly but beginning to hold together. Set aside 250 ml (1 cup) of the mixture.

Mix egg into dough remaining in bowl. Transfer dough with egg to prepared baking dish and press it evenly over the bottom. Spread reserved fruit filling on top, then sprinkle reserved crumb mixture over it.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until lightly browned and bubbling. Transfer dish to a wire rack to cool completely, about 1 hour. Cut into 16 bars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local Savour

Duff's Famous Wings

1604 Bayview Ave. and 558 College St. W.

416-544-0100 and 416-963-4446

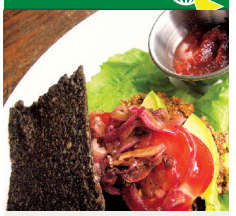
duffsfamouswings.ca

Chicken Wings (10 wings, 1.6 lbs.), $9.75

To proclaim one place to have the best chicken wings in the city would just create a war of words with no end, but anyone who likes their wings has to give Duff's a try.

Duff's offers up a big juicy wing with enough sauce to require many paper towels for clean up. With 12 flavours, from mild to Armageddon — which should only be tried by the bravest eaters — there is enough variety for everyone in your party. Be prepared to wait for seating as both locations get very busy on weekends, especially the patio at the Bayview Avenue spot.

On the web



Global Peasant:

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant to read Diane's recipe for ... drumroll, please ... raw burgers. It can be done.

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Thurman to play nun

Uma Thurman is set to play a nun in her new movie. The Kill Bill star has signed on to star in new indie drama Girl Soldier, in which she will take on the role of Sister Caroline who helped rescue 140 schoolgirls abducted in Uganda. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Smell like Amy

Amy Winehouse wants to launch her own perfume. The troubled singer and her father Mitch are keen to develop her "smoky" look and put her name on a fragrance. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Sparks ready for battle

SONY MUSIC PHOTO

Battlefield is the new disc from American Idol winner Jordin Sparks.

Jordin **Sparks**

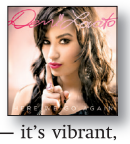
Album: Battlefield
Label: Sony Music
Rating: ●●●

WHILE RIHANNA PLAYED the Good Girl Gone Bad on her last release, Jordin Sparks' latest could have been called Good Girl Remains Good. The American Idol winner's sophomore album offers little of the drama its title suggests. But what Battlefield lacks in tension, it makes up for in expert pop-R&B songcraft and production. Be it over slick, '80s-Madonna-inspired tracks like S.O.S. (Let The Music Play) or mid-tempo power ballads like Let It Rain, Sparks repeatedly proves why she won Simon Cowell and company over in the first place.

Jason Richards/for Metro Canada

Demi **Lovato**

Album: Here We Go Again
Label: Hollywood/Universal
Rating: ●●●



DEMI LOVATO'S sophomore disc is exactly what you'd expect from a Disney darling — it's vibrant, infectious and only for 14-year-old girls. For that Miley Cyrus loving demo, this is a superb disc. She's perfected the watered down Avril Lavigne, faux-anger sound to a tee, and naïve songs about boys will resonate with her coming-of-age crowd. This isn't a bad disc. It's loaded with rock hooks and Lovato's voice is solid. She has a bright future, once she breaks free from Mickey's shackles.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Our **Lady Peace**

Album: Burn Burn
Label: Coalition/Sony Music
Rating: ●●●

THE GOOD NEWS: OLP's Raine Maida drops all traces of his piercing aii-ee-iii-ee-iiis in his vocals and sounds more like a real singer. The bad news: The band cops copious amounts of atmospheric rock elements from the likes of Radiohead, Coldplay and U2 and converts it all into one package of formulaic, radio-friendly alt-pop. For a Canuck outfit that had been so close to separating with 2005's Healthy In Paranoid Times, album No. 7 gives the impression that OLP still craves some more stadium-size rock acceptance. But as Brit rock-wannabes? Aii-ee-iii-ee-iii!

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

Fiery **Furnaces**

Album: I'm Going Away
Label: Thrill Jockey
Rating: ●●●½

IF THERE'S ONE thing most people know about the Fiery Furnaces, it's that their music has been pretty weird. So it was a surprise to find out that their sixth record is one of the more straightforward albums in their oeuvre. That's not to say this still isn't incredibly quirky. The title track is a wacky hillbilly blues number that speeds through its 2:27 time, while Drive to Dallas comes off as a hilarious Diana Krall parody. Most of the other tracks tread a fine line between strange and accessible, a perfect combo for this sibling duo.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Listen to this week's reviewed music at **metronews.ca/music**

Baldwin brother files for bankruptcy

Just like thousands of Americans, steep mortgage payments, credit card debt and rising taxes were too much to handle for Stephen Baldwin. The actor and recent I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here! reality star has filed for bankruptcy, a Wall Street Journal blog reports. **POPEATER.COM**

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HAPPY SCIENCE CANADA

Native authors making waves

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

In contemporary Canadian society, Joseph Boyden continues to see barriers between First Nations communities and the rest of the country.

Often more prevalent than seen through the eyes of non-First Nations people, said the part-Métis author, 43, their struggles continue to persist both on and off the reserve. But the Giller Prize winner believes writing is the perfect way to break down those barriers.

"You can put an audience in a place that they're not necessarily comfortable with but they want to explore with you," he said. "In Three Day Road and Through Black Spruce, I ask my reader to become my character, take this journey where they don't know where they're going, and live in those shoes."

It's those shoes Boyden uses to communicate themes in his writing, works driven by characters, he said, rather than the issues and ideas that eventually spawn from them.

"What I try to do is bring to life characters that don't just feel native per se, but feel like humans," he said. "I try to break down stereotypes, simply put."

First Nations people are breaking waves in Canadian literature according to Kamloops, B.C.-based author Richard Wagamese.

"That's indicated by Joseph Boyden winning the Giller Prize and the number of aboriginal writers that are coming along to publish for the first time," he said.

The 53-year-old Ojibway has published seven titles. In each, Wagamese said he tries to embed teaching paradigms encompassing universal moral and ethical teachings.

Joseph Boyden believes writing is the perfect way to break down barriers between First Nations communities and the rest of Canada.

FocusOn FirstNations

But Wagamese doesn't want to create stories just for or about First Nations people without them reaching outside the community, the reason he said he plays with novel contexts, like rodeo in 2006's Dream Wheels and homelessness in 2008's Ragged Company.

"I look for a context to frame it in that's probably not something you would ordinarily sum to in terms of aboriginal life," he said. "The challenge is always the context."

Vancouver-based Dogrib author Richard Van Camp, 37, has read all of Wagamese's books and shares his motivation to disseminate his knowledge about his culture's significance, today.

"I don't write about aboriginal people pre-contact or shortly after contact. I write about aboriginal people living, loving and celebrating now," he said.

Van Camp's focus on the present reflects his pride in being Dogrib and desire to keep his First Nations traditions alive, but he said it's also a way to impart the modern experience of living with a diverse background.

"I'm half aboriginal, half non-aboriginal, so I like to celebrate my inheritance as a person of mixed-races. I love being alive right now, and that's what I want to focus on."

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Billy Talent album hits No. 1 spot
Toronto-based rockers Billy Talent's latest album, Billy Talent III, debuted at No. 1 on Canadian charts this week, selling over 40,000 copies. METRO NEWS SERVICES

MJ doc's clinic searched

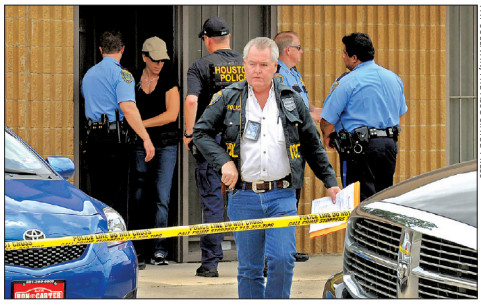
Cops looking for manslaughter clues: Lawyer

Authorities searched the Houston clinic of Michael Jackson's doctor yesterday, and his attorney said they were seeking evidence of manslaughter.

Dr. Conrad Murray had been interviewed by police as a witness to the pop star's death, but has not been considered a suspect. Police have said little about the probe, neither confirming or denying the possibility of criminal charges.

Los Angeles police and agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration went through the Armstrong Medical Clinic on Wednesday for about 2½ hours. Authorities said they were searching for documents.

"The search warrant authorized law enforcement to search for and seize items, including documents, they believed constituted evidence of the offence of manslaughter," Ed Chernoff, Murray's attorney, said in a statement posted on his law firm's website. The Harris County warrant remains sealed and unavailable to the media.


PAT SULLIVAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A narcotics officer leaves Dr. Conrad Murray's Armstrong clinic in Houston yesterday where Los Angeles police and agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration were investigating.

Chernoff said agents left with "a forensic image" of a computer hard drive and 21 documents.

Murray has emerged as a central figure in the investigation. The doctor, who had been recently hired by Jackson, was with him in his mansion and tried to revive him.

Szeleczky said the agents were looking for Murray's records, not drugs, but wouldn't specify further. She declined to say how the search related to Jackson's death.

Meanwhile, investigators in California also sought more information from Murray, according to Chernoff.

In a statement on his site late Tuesday, Chernoff said

"The coroner wants to clear up the cause of death; we share that goal."
Ed Chernoff, Dr. Conrad's Murray's attorney

investigators from the Los Angeles County coroner's office have asked for medical records in addition to those already provided by Murray.

"The coroner wants to clear up the cause of death; we share that goal," Chernoff said in his statement.

"Based on Dr. Murray's minute-by-minute and item-by-item description of Michael Jackson's last days, he should not be a target of criminal charges."

Also yesterday, the coroner's office subpoenaed the records of former Jackson nutritionist Cherilyn Lee for information on her treatment of the singer, Lee's spokeswoman said.

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Rock and Roll Hall of Fame celebrating 25 years

Bruce Springsteen, Aretha Franklin, U2 and Stevie Wonder are among the music legends who will celebrate 25 years of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Those inductees and more will perform at two concerts at New York's Madison Square Garden in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nightmare of her own

David Lynch's daughter returns with Surveillance

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

The last time we saw Jennifer Lynch (daughter of legendary surrealist David Lynch) she was attached to a film so reviled that it almost derailed her career for keeps.

The picture in question was 1993's Boxing Helena, a notoriously outrageous melodrama about extreme love (and kinky, limbless sex) that was infamous before it was even released, due chiefly to the fact that actress Kim Basinger bailed on the project in pre-production.

Basinger was subsequently sued by the producers, and when the film finally ended up on screens, critics tore it to smithereens.

Sixteen years later the quirky filmmaker has returned with the far less controversial but no less disturbing picture Surveillance (opening tomorrow), a noir-esque thriller that has, unlike Boxing Helena, won Lynch both awards and critical praise.

Movie **feature**

"It's hard to find a hero in the film," says Lynch of her serial killer opus. "But I do think that the villain is violence. We all have propensity for violence and the characters in Surveillance are confronted by this in various volatile ways."

Surveillance stars Bill Pullman and Julia Ormond as a pair of eccentric FBI agents sent to a remote prairie town to investigate a series of sickening murders. As witness after witness is questioned and observed, a fragmented puzzle begins to form, a subjective descent into madness that climaxes in an full-on orgy of bloodshed.

And yet, despite the graphic nature of the film, Surveillance is also darkly funny.

"We had a great cast," says the director of her motley crew of thespians, the likes which include Canadian icon Michael Ironside and comedian French Stewart (TV's 3rd Rock From The Sun).

Lynch is currently in post-production for her next shocker, a shot-in-India creature-feature titled Hisss.

"Hisss is about a cobra who turns into a cobra woman then into a giant cobra who swallows men whole. It's super fun."

GETTY IMAGES

From left, Surveillance actors Bill Pullman, Julia Ormond, director Jennifer Lynch and producer Marco Mehlitz attend the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.

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Silverstone onstage

Alicia Silverstone will join Laura Linney on Broadway this season. They will star in Time Stands Still, a play by Donald Margulies, which opens Jan. 28, 2010, at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Louisiana heats up True Blood

Setting imbues vampire show with atmosphere

Sookie Stackhouse and her brother Jason are returning from Dallas to the tiny Louisiana town of Bon Temps.

But something is wrong. Newspapers drift in the steamy air; fruit stands and flower stalls are overturned; graffiti assaults signs and a courthouse statue; and trash and clothes litter streets and lawns. A force of nature? Or something brewed by Maryann, the dark, mysterious newcomer in HBO's hit vampire drama, True Blood?

Cast and crew of the show, based on Charlaine Harris' best-selling Sookie Stackhouse stories, were in Louisiana to soak up the antebellum atmosphere of Clinton, a community of 2,000 people, 50 kilometres north of Baton Rouge.

Main Street and the town's courthouse, surrounded by sprawling, moss-covered oak trees, were perfect as backdrops for the tale of vampires living among humans. The sticky heat, mossy greenery, white columned houses and slow-moving lifestyle also added to the allure, and gave a dimension and authenticity to the series that can only be captured here. "The moment you step off the plane, you feel you're in the world of the show," said True Blood writer Alexander Woo. "You don't have to imagine you're there."

JAIMIE TRUEBLOOD/HBO

Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer are shown in a scene from the second season of the HBO series True Blood.

The series, from Six Feet Under creator Alan Ball, opened last year and slowly built an audience, gaining a cultlike following among Sookie Stackhouse fans. Its second season began June 14. True Blood enjoyed a series high last Sunday with 3.9 million viewers, according to HBO, and averages a gross audience of 10.8 million viewers an episode, up 39 per cent from last season.

But despite its critical acclaim and strong fan base, the show got only three Emmy nominations last week, for outstanding art direction, casting and title design. Nothing for star Anna Paquin, who picked up a Golden Globe for her role as Sookie, or for Ball.

"The moment you step off the plane, you feel you're in the world of the show."
Alexander Woo

True Blood blends murder, mystery, drama, comedy and romance. The series centres on Sookie, a waitress with telepathic powers who falls in love with 173-year-old vampire Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer).

Shooting the series in Louisiana, where temperatures soared to nearly 38 C, also offered some unexpected insights. "It makes you move slower, which is interesting for character," Moyer said. "I understand now why people move so slow down here."

"You have to move slower, or you'll pass out," Paquin said, laughing. True Blood airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on HBO Canada.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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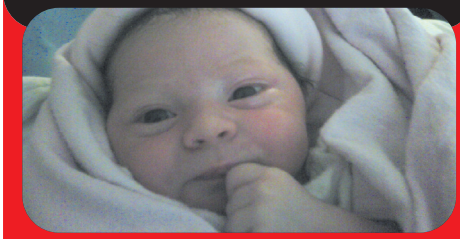

Congratulations to Billie of The Breakfast Show with Mad Dog & Billie on Virgin Radio – we're excited to announce that she and her husband welcomed a baby girl named Harlow into the world Tuesday at 9:35am weighing in at 7lbs13oz - Congrats Billie & Pete!

For more pictures of beautiful Harlow visit virginradio.ca

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Billy Elliot will tour North America

THEATRE Billy Elliot will begin dancing across North America next March. Producers of the Tony-winning musical — which is currently playing in New York and London — say the show will begin its tour with an extended run in Chicago. Dates, casting and other cities on the tour will be announced later.

Canyon, Doc Walker up for fan award

MUSIC Calgary singer George Canyon and Manitoba band Doc Walker are among the nominees for this year's Canadian Country Music Association Fans' Choice Award. Other artists up for the honour include Aaron Pritchett and Jessie Farrell, both of Vancouver. The CCMA awards take place on Sept. 13.

Apprentice winner may run for office

TELEVISION Reality TV star Randal Pinkett says he'll consider running for lieutenant governor in New Jersey if and when an offer is made. The season 4 Apprentice winner says he's met with Gov. Jon Corzine, but the governor has not asked him to be his running mate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO 7/23/09

	Vu	SC		C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Super Rigs		The Best of The Agenda		Brain Man		Secret Life of the Brain		Best-Agenda
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Big Brother 11 (Live)		The Office	The Office	House		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone (HDTV)		Doc Zone Future of food.		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		30 Rock	Less-Kind	According-Jim	30 Rock	(10:01) Law & Order: UK (N)		CityNews
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		So You Think You Can Dance		(10:01) The Listener		CTV News
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	Behind-Scenes	True Hollywood Story (N)		The Beast (N)		News/Eleven
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Sur la Piste de	Villages	*L'Enfer* ★★★ (1994, Drame) Emmanuelle Béart.				Esprit
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Stargate SG-1 "Urgo"		Smallville "Bulletproof"		Supernatural (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Brother 11 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	30 Rock	The Office	The Office	30 Rock	(10:01) The Listener		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Samantha Who	Samantha Who	Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Greek		Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV)		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	Doc Martin		Color of War II: British Story		MI-5 "Persephone"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Bulletproof"		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil Family in crisis.		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Marketplace	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Black in America "Tomorrow's Leaders" (N)				Anderson Cooper 360		Black, Amer.
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		Crime & Punishment		Secrets of the Knight		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Billiards: U.S. Open Nine-Ball		PartyPoker.net Irish		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	CFL Pregame	CFL Football Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Montreal Alouettes. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre	
	411	457	58	OLN	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Cycling Tour de France -- Stage 18. From Annecy.						Cycling
family	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Jacked! (N)	Jacked! (N)	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
	551	542	25	YTV	Family Biz	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life "E.R."		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	*Doctor Strange* (2007, Action)			*Doctor Strange*
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Style by Jury	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Video on Trial	Born to Be	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 "Indianapolis"		Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Berlinguer Ti Voglio Bene				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Storytellers		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Carrie Underwood One on One		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Tuckerville
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	*Mom, Dad and Her* (2008, Drama) Melora Hardin.				House
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Childstar* ★ (2004, Comedy-Drama) Don McKellar.				Law Order: CI
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	10 Pounds	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Smoked"		Ancient Discoveries		Lost Inventions		NCIS "Smoked"		Marine Mach.
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now (DVS)		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Handyman Superstar		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*Men in Black II* ★★ (2002, Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Hero Wanted* (2008, Suspense) Cuba Gooding Jr..				The Game	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50	SPC	The Listener (HDTV) (N)		Star Trek: Voyager		Pretty Bloody (DVS)		Torchwood: Children of Earth		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Cribs	After	MTV News	Cribs	True Life		Nitro Circus	Fantasy Fact.	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Traders		Inside Hollywood (DVS)		Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Crash-Kitchen	Restaurant Makeover		Jamie's Kitchen		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Boys Weekend
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Murder Unveiled* (2005, Romance) Anita Majumdar.				Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Big Comfy	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Dépenses xtr	Marché	Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		Mollie (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Juste pour rire	Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy "Imbroglio"		Most Haunted		The Closer "Ruby"		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(6:30) *Passchendaele* (2008, War)			Nurse Jackie	*Elegy* ★★★ (2008, Drama) Penélope Cruz.				Penn & Teller
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:45) *Quigley Down Under* ★★ (1990, Western)				*Glory* ★★★★ (1989, Historical Drama), Morgan Freeman				*Gone Dark* ★

critics'corner

Childstar

Don McKellar ("Last Night") co-wrote, directed and stars in this unfunny 2004 comedy-drama about Taylor (Mark Rendall), a Hollywood brat who's in Toronto to shoot a movie. Used to getting his own way, he finds the director unwilling to put up with his tantrums and flees the set, checking out the local drinks, drugs and damsels with another young actor (Brendan Fehr). McKellar plays the boy's driver, who has an affair with Taylor's alcoholic mom (Jennifer Jason Leigh). 9 PM on BVO

Pretty Bloody

Horror is for guys, right? Made by guys for guys who want to see blood and breasts, right? While the horror genre may be male-dominated, it does have its share of women in roles other than scream queen — director, for example. This special traces women's contribution to the horror genre with film clips and interviews with directors Mary Lambert ("Pet Sematary") and Katt Shea ("Stripped to Kill"), actress Debbie Rochon and more. 11 AM on SPC

Celebrity Buzz

Tearful Angelina shuts herself away

ON THE ROCKS? Angelina Jolie reportedly walked out on Brad Pitt following a furious argument last weekend, female-first.co.uk reports.

The couple — who raise six children together — allegedly had a huge row following their twins Knox and Vivienne's first birthday bash at their rented Los Angeles home Sunday.

According to sources, the 34-year-old beauty booked into a room at a luxury Beverly Hills hotel after collapsing on the floor in a flood of tears at the party.

A source told Britain's Grazia magazine: "Minutes after the argument, she got up, threw together a bag of clothes and ran to her car. She checked straight into a suite at the Raffles L'Ermitage hotel."

The actress has reportedly remained at the hotel — where her late mother Marcheline Bertrand stayed until her death in 2007 — and is refusing to speak to Pitt.

The source explained: "Angelina is refusing to take Brad's calls — the only way he knew she was OK was because the nannies had seen her ... She's always thrilled to see the kids, who have been visiting two at a time."

Friends of the actress say Jolie is still mourning her mother, who died of ovarian cancer at age 56.

One said: "Angelina stays in the room for hours on end. It's as if she's trying to feel Marcheline's spirit. She's lighting candles and thinking about her mother."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The last straw for Eddie's wife

NO MORE Eddie Cibrian's wife has decided to call it quits with the actor over an alleged affair he had with country singer LeAnn Rimes, according to Us Weekly.

"Eddie and I have decided to take some time apart," Brandi Glanville said. "I want to do what is best for our children. Eddie and LeAnn deserve each other." Though speculation about the affair began months ago, Cibrian and Rimes were allegedly caught together again last week, prompting Granville's decision.

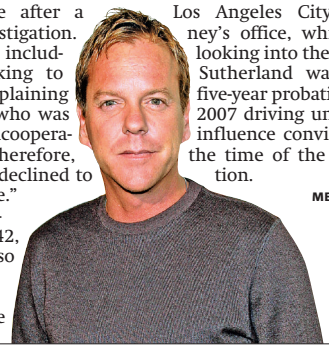
METRO WORLD NEWS

Charge dropped against Kiefer

COURTS Kiefer Sutherland will not face prosecution for allegedly attacking a fashion designer, female-first.co.uk reports.

The 24 star was charged with third-degree assault after allegedly headbutting Proenza Schouler designer Jack McCollough in New York in May, but the case has been dropped.

Manhattan District Attorney spokeswoman Alicia Maxey Greene confirmed: "We declined to prosecute after a full investigation. And that included speaking to the complaining witness who was quite uncooperative. Therefore, the D.A. declined to prosecute."



Sutherland, 42, has also been cleared by the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, which was looking into the case, as Sutherland was on a five-year probation for a 2007 driving under the influence conviction at the time of the altercation.

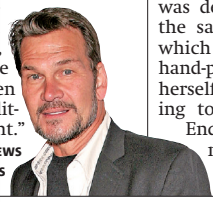
METRO NEWS SERVICES

No heart attack: Swayze

RUMOUR MILL The National Enquirer seems to believe Patrick Swayze has suffered a heart attack, but a rep for the ailing actor gives that tabloid report a roundhouse kick, popeater.com reports.

"He's well," the rep tells Access Hollywood.

"He's continuing his treatment (for pancreatic cancer) and doing very well, actually. Contrary to reports, he did not suffer a heart attack." Not only that, but Swayze "has even gained a little weight."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Happy birthday, Lindsay

TOO MUCH INFORMATION Samanthan Ronson gave Lindsay Lohan sex toys for her birthday, female-first.co.uk reports.

The actress — who turned 23 on July 2 and has had an on-off relationship with the DJ for two years — was delighted with the satisfying gift, which Ronson hand-picked herself, according to National Enquirer magazine.

A source said: "Samantha presented her with a gift guaranteed to create lots of buzz — a big, brightly gift-wrapped basket of sex toys selected by herself. She spent hours shopping Hollywood's erotic emporiums for the items."

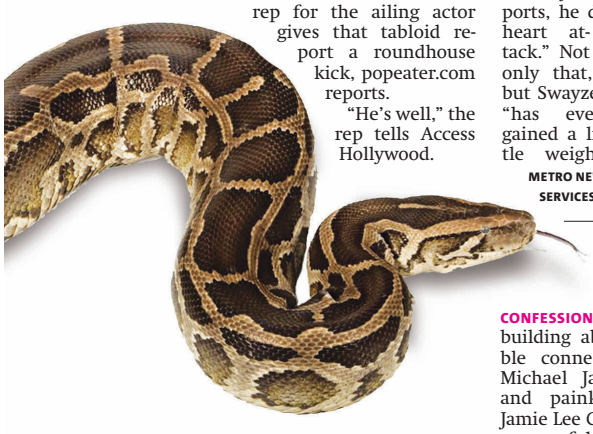
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Billy Joel's heart a quick healer

THAT WAS FAST Barely a month after announcing his split from his third wife, Billy Joel is dating again, Page Six reports.

Sources say the singer has been spending time with former The Young and the Restless star Alex Donnelley, after meeting her at a Washington, D.C., concert.

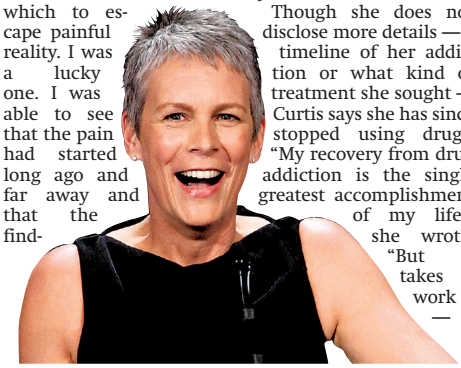
METRO WORLD NEWS



I was a painkiller addict: Jamie Lee

CONFESSION With buzz building about the possible connection between Michael Jackson's death and painkillers, actress Jamie Lee Curtis has made a powerful admission: She was hooked on them — and understands how hard it is to quit, people.com reports.

"I too found painkillers after a routine cosmetic surgical procedure and I too became addicted," Curtis, 50, wrote in a blog for the Huffington Post. "The morphine becomes the warm bath from which to escape painful reality. I was a lucky one. I was able to see that the pain had started long ago and far away and that the finding the narcotic was merely a matter of time."



Though she does not disclose more details — a timeline of her addiction or what kind of treatment she sought — Curtis says she has since stopped using drugs. "My recovery from drug addiction is the single greatest accomplishment of my life," she wrote. "But it takes work — hard, painful work."

Still, the actress empathizes with Michael Jackson. "I believe Mr. Jackson was in pain," she wrote. "Mr. Jackson was an addict. It is coming out. Everywhere. He wanted relief and would get it in any name, place or method he could. It was and is a conspiracy of silence and I'm sure there were attempts to intervene and I'm sure his family and friends tried ... but the addict gets what the addict wants, relief from the pain of their life."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Love child rumours surface

LET THE CIRCUS BEGIN Michael Jackson is rumoured to have a fourth child, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Omer Bhatti, a 25-year-old Norwegian dancer, is thought to be the singer's child from a one-night stand in 1984, the website alleges.

Jackson, who passed away last month, is said to have admitted to friends in 2004 that he was Omer's father, the website adds. Bhatti is now believed to be seeking a DNA test to determine if he is a descendent of the King of Pop.

Although Omer's mother Pia and her husband Riz — who have both worked for Jackson — refuse to talk about the star, Pia did tell Britain's The Sun newspaper on Tuesday: "He was the King of Pop. But to us he was so much more."

Omer has also previously spoken about his special bond with the singer, describing his "loyalty" in 2008.

He said at the time: "Loyalty is the most important thing for me.

"I have contact with Michael, and I think my loyalty to him is the reason we still have our contact. He is an unbelievably good human being."

Omer also lived at Jackson's Neverland ranch home for several years from 1997, and video footage exists of him unwrapping presents with Jackson and playing with a toddler, believed to be one of Jackson's other children — Prince Michael, 12, Paris, 11 and Prince Michael II, also known as Blanket, seven.

The dancer was also at Neverland when police raided the property to investigate child molestation allegations in 2003.

On Tuesday, Riz confirmed his stepson was in the front row for the emotional memorial concert at the Los Angeles Staples Center.

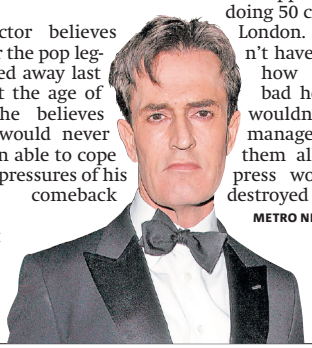
He said: "I know because I was watching. I told my wife, 'Just wait until the press see this. It's not a small thing.' Make what you like. I don't want to discuss anything."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

MJ better off dead: Rupert

HIS OPINION Rupert Everett is relieved Michael Jackson died, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor believes it's better the pop legend passed away last month at the age of 50, as he believes Jackson would never have been able to cope with the pressures of his planned comeback shows.



Everett told Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: "I think it was fortuitous that he died. He was supposed to be doing 50 concerts in London. It wouldn't have mattered how good or bad he was. He wouldn't have managed to do them all and the press would have destroyed him.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jon's new girlfriend

REBOUND Hailey Glassman's romance with Jon Gosselin came as a surprise — even to her, she tells People magazine.

"If you had told me a few months ago, I wouldn't have believed you," she said of dating the 32-year-old newly single dad of eight kids.

Glassman, 22, says she developed feelings for Gosselin — a family friend who recently split from his wife Kate — while he was nursing his broken heart at her parents' New York City home in May. "He was so strong," Glassman said. "I admired him."

She refutes rumours that she's engaged to Gosselin, but admits she's having a great time with her new beau, who recently rented a bachelor pad in Manhattan. "We watch movies, play pool and Ping-Pong. We laugh a lot because I beat him at everything," she gushed.

She added: "He's a great cook. He cooks roasted veggies with special seasoning and sauces, and he grills pineapple with a butter concoction."

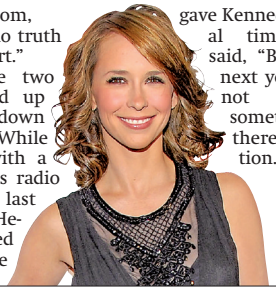
METRO NEWS SERVICES

False alarm, not wedding bells

SOON, BUT NOT YET There are no wedding bells for Jennifer Love Hewitt and Jamie Kennedy just yet, usmagazine.com reports.

The New York Post reported that Kennedy, 39, popped the question to Hewitt, 30, onstage at a California comedy club Saturday night after an audience yelled, "Marry her!"

But Hewitt's rep told usmagazine.com, "There is no truth to the report."



Still, the two could wind up walking down the aisle. While chatting with a Los Angeles radio station last month, Hewitt revealed that she gave Kennedy a proposal timeline. She said, "By this time next year, if we're not planning something, then there's a situation."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Could Mischa lose new TV gig?

HIGH STAKES After more than a week in a Los Angeles hospital psychiatric ward, Mischa Barton risks losing her latest acting gig, according to the Sun.

Producers of the new CW drama The Beautiful Life are said to be considering a placement for Barton, who plays a supermodel, if she is not fit for filming by next week, sources say.

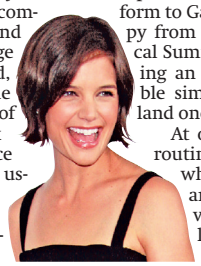
But Barton's people aren't worried. "Mischa is improving and still under care, with the intentions of being able to resume production on The Beautiful Life next week," her rep said.

GETTY IMAGES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Katie gets into song and dance

FOR CHARITY Katie Holmes says she is "very excited" about her upcoming singing and dancing homage to Judy Garland, airing on the 100th episode of So you Think You Can Dance tonight, usmagazine.com reports.



As usmagazine.com previously reported, Holmes will perform to Garland's Get Happy from the 1950s musical Summer Stock, wearing an all-black ensemble similar to one Garland once wore.

At one point in the routine, Holmes — who also prances around in a black velvet fedora, nylon stockings and body-hugging skirt — is lifted over three dancers' heads. For her finish, she tosses her fedora in the air, and one of the other male dancers catches it.

Holmes agreed to the dance after becoming involved with the non-profit Dizzy Feet Foundation, which provides assistance to talented underprivileged youth.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

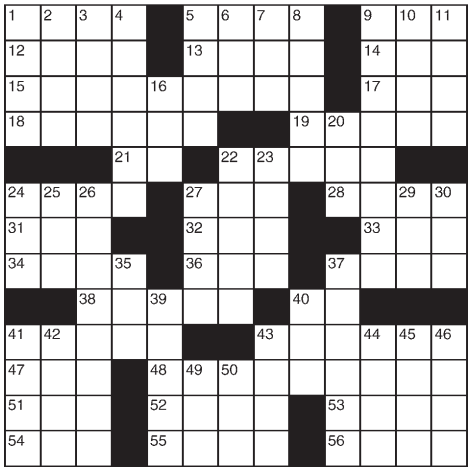
The Weather Network 20 YEARS
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today Thunderstorms 90% 21°/ 18°
Friday Thundershowers 40% 23° / 17°
Saturday Rain 80% 24°/ 17°

The Weather Network GTA TRAFFIC UPDATES DOWNLOAD TRAFFICEYE

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Grounded flock
5 Castle protection
9 Jazzy style
12 Spiraling motion
13 Part of a foot?
14 Carnival city
15 Small embellishment
17 New England cape
18 Deli purchase
19 Role for Desi
21 "Forget it!"
22 Motif
24 Everything else
27 Street address?
28 Charitable donation
31 Matterhorn, for one
32 Cartesian conclusion
33 — de cologne
34 Dieter's target
36 Expert
37 Dance lesson
38 Hex
40 Greeting
41 "— Foolish Things"
43 Soda shoppe order
47 Massage
48 Gridiron tactic using a tee
51 — Khan
52 Latvia's capital
53 Canal zone
54 Apiece
55 Microwave
56 Ohio team

DOWN

1 Early birds?
2 "— Breckinridge"
3 Orsk's river
4 Trig measure
5 Revealing fashion
6 Lennon's lady
7 Performance
8 "Ta-da!"
9 It has its charms
10 Sty cry
11 Shetland, for one
16 Comic Philips
20 "— Little Teapot"
22 Vestige
23 Base runner's goal
24 U.K. fliers
25 Right angle
26 Neighbor of alt
27 Prejudice
29 West of Hollywood
30 Dine
35 Kramden's transport
37 Doughnut, slangily
39 Copy, for short
40 Shade
41 Snare
42 Ginormous
43 Read quickly
44 Catastrophic
45 Litmus reddener
46 Supplements, with "out"
49 Actress Ullmann
50 Epoch

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1						3	
	7	2	4		5	8	6	
9		6				1		7
			1	8	3			
				6				
			2	5	4			
5		9				2		6
	4	7	6		8	3	5	
	3						8	

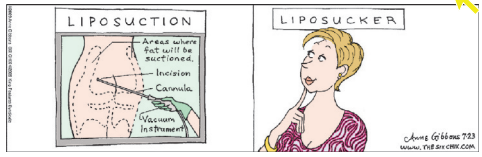
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G	O	D	S		P	A	T		S	C	O	T		
A	S	E	A		R	I	O		A	L	G	A		
F	L	A	T	T	E	R	Y		T	A	R	P		
F	O	L	I	O	S		E	L	A	T	E	S		
			E	M	S		D	O	N	T				
E	R	G		B	O	B		Y	I	E	L	D		
T	A	L	C		N	I	L		C	R	E	E		
C	H	I	L	I		D	E	C		Y	E	W		
		T	E	N	D		G	U	M					
O	C	T	A	N	E		P	L	A	Y	E	D		
W	H	E	N		F	L	U	T	T	E	R	Y		
E	A	R	S		O	I	L		E	L	S	E		
S	T	Y	E		E	E	L		S	L	E	D		

6	4	3	1	2	7	5	8	9
7	8	5	9	3	4	6	2	1
1	9	2	5	6	8	4	3	7
2	1	7	6	4	5	8	9	3
3	5	4	8	9	2	7	1	6
9	6	8	3	7	1	2	4	5
8	7	6	2	1	9	3	5	4
5	3	1	4	8	6	9	7	2
4	2	9	7	5	3	1	6	8

On the web

Find more games to play + more cartoons by the Six Chix at metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

JENNIFER TIFFIN

Grilled Eggplant Side Dish

submitted by a Club Member!

Submitted by Kirsten Ernst, Vancouver

INGREDIENTS:

1 large eggplant
olive oil
1 cup good quality feta cheese
Juice of 1/2 to 1 lemon (to taste)
1 tomato, seeded, and diced
1/2 to 1 small red chili, seeded, and finely sliced (to taste)
1/2 cup mint, chopped (reserve small amount to sprinkle on top for garnish)
Salt and ground black pepper (to taste)

METHOD:

Preheat grill/barbecue. Slice eggplant, lengthwise, about 1/4-in. thick. Rub olive oil on each piece, both sides. Grill slices on barbecue, marking with crisscrosses, until just tender.

Place slices on baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Let cool. In bowl, combine crumbled feta cheese with lemon juice to taste, tomatoes, mint, salt and pepper to taste.

On each slice of eggplant, put approx. 1/4 cup of feta mixture, and roll up. Put all rolled slices in a row on platter. Sprinkle top with reserved chopped mint.

SERVES 2
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOKING TIME: 20 MINUTES

20 minute SUPPER CLUB

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You may be inclined to let a wrong-doer off the hook, but is that a good idea? It may just encourage others to believe they can take advantage of you too.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The stars convey that you can make yourself happy or sad — it's up to you which path you take. Look around you today and find reasons to be cheerful.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Make sure you say nice things about others today — even if you don't mean what you say — as then they're more likely to say nice things about you.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Today, the influence of Pluto will bring out your ruthless side — but use it only when you really need to, and even then in moderation.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A new solar cycle has begun and you know it's going to be one of the best ever. But you don't have to do everything at once or cut corners.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
It's not like you to be controversial but you'll go out of your way to stir things up today. But take care not to alienate those whose support you need.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A friendship may be going through a rough patch at the moment but don't give up on it yet. You'll find lots of reasons to patch up your differences.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
The more you worry about a situation the more likely it is to turn out badly. Be positive today. Change your thinking and you change your world.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Today you must resist the urge to splash out on things you don't need. That applies especially to gifts bought for those you have feelings for.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Capricorns know the greatest triumphs come from overcoming mighty challenges. Today you'll confront the kind of challenge you secretly enjoy.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone whose judgment you trust will try to convince you that their latest idea is a sure-fire winner. Don't be so sure. Say thanks but no thanks.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If your idea is a good one and if you are committed to it heart and soul you can make it work at any time — and there is no time like the present.

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WORDY GURDY® BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Biggest-fiddle location (1)
2. Dog shelter auditory effect (1)
3. Fire truck tube emits an aura (1)
4. Without a certain "Peanuts" boy (2)
5. Annoy an Addams Family uncle (2)
6. Laid-back novelist/Nobel winner Saul (2)
7. U.S. Constitution modifier praiser (3)

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7-23-09

ANSWERS
1. BASS PLACE 2. POUND SOUND 3. HOSE GLOWS 4. MINUS LINUS
5. PESTER FESTER 6. MELLOW BELLOW 7. AMENDER COMMENDER

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2009 TUCSON L

LAST YEAR'S STARTING PRICE ~~$21,195~~

NOW FROM **$17,995**♦ WITH **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 48 MOS.◊

Limited model shown

2009 SANTA FE 2.7L GL

LAST YEAR'S STARTING PRICE ~~$25,985~~

NOW FROM **$21,995**♦ WITH **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 48 MOS.◊

Limited model shown

INTRODUCING THE 2010 SONATA GL

FEATURING **BEST-IN-CLASS FUEL ECONOMY**†

STARTING FROM ~~$22,499~~

NOW FROM **$18,999**¥ WITH **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 48 MOS.◊

Limited model shown

SMART SHOPPERS ALWAYS COMPARE PRICE, VALUE AND FUEL ECONOMY

5 YEAR 100,000 KM WARRANTY
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

For more award information and to find your local dealer visit ***www.hyundaicanada.com***

HYUNDAI™

GRADUATE RETAIL REBATE PROGRAM

"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Last year's starting price is the lease/finance starting price as of December 2008 for a 2009 Elantra L/2009 Accent L 3 Dr/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL. Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited of $20,295/2009 Accent GL Sport of $14,395/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. ‡Starting price for model shown: 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package 5-speed of $21,195. ¥Price is calculated after deducting price adjustment off the lease/finance starting price. Price adjustment of $3,500 available on a 2010 Sonata GL 5-speed. Price for 2010 Sonata Limited model shown (after deducting price adjustment) is $30,499. ♦♦Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra Touring/$1,495 for 2009 Tucson/$1,695 for 2009 Santa Fe/$1,695 for 2010 Sonata. ◊Offer applies to 2009 Elantra L/2009 Elantra Touring GL/2009 Accent L 3 Dr/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL/2010 Sonata GL. Financing for 36 months equals $27.78 per month for each $1,000 borrowed. Financing for 48 months equals $20.83 per month for each $1,000 borrowed. Total obligation of $10,755 (Elantra L) or $17,955 (Elantra Touring GL) or $17,955 (Accent L 3 Dr) or $21,955 (Tucson Limited) or $25,955 (Santa Fe Limited) or $18,999 (Sonata GL) for 36/48 months. Finance offer applies to approved credit on select new 2009 Elantra/2009 Accent/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata models delivered from participating dealer stock by January 5, 2009. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. See dealer for complete details. Taxes, insurance, licence fees and all applicable dealer charges are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ΩThe Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 60,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. *Elantra Touring best-in-class interior room based on Auto Data comparison of 124 vehicles in the compact class (according to AAMC). †Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2010 Sonata GL auto (8.0ZU/100km) and 2009 EnerCycle combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel Consumption for 2010 Sonata GL automatic (HWY 6.2L/100km, 46 mpg; CITY 9.5L/100km, 30 mpg) is based on manufacturer testing. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.